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Havel Advocates Collective European Treaty System

LD2504103991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0900 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpt] President Vaclav Havel opened a two-day conference on the future of European security in Cernin Palace in Prague this morning. He emphasized that security issues in Europe are not a regional matter, but that they are a matter concerning the whole world. He pointed out that Czechoslovakia pins high hopes on the Helsinki process in this respect. According to Vaclav Havel, a system of collective treaties should be formed, which would bind together NATO-member countries, nonaligned, and the so-called postcommunist countries. In this connection, the president praised the role of NATO as a well-tried democratic institution, on the one hand, and as a link with the United States and Canada, on the other. He also spoke in favor of new bilateral agreements between European countries which should become a basis for a future security network.

When opening the Prague conference on the future of European security today, Vaclav Havel also highlighted the role of the Soviet Union without whose participation the future of security in Europe is inconceivable. [passage omitted]

Security Policy Conference Opens in Budapest

LD2404173691 Budapest MTI in English 1524 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24 (MTI)—A two-day security policy conference focussing on the security of Central and Eastern Europe after the Warsaw Treaty's dissolution, the chance of co-operation within the region, and the prospects of security in Europe opened in Budapest on Wednesday with Austrian, Bulgarian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Soviet and Yugoslav specialists.

On the first day, it was emphasized that after the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty's military organization the member states would be able to guarantee their security through a set of bilateral agreements, and the countries of the region should redefine their relationship with one another, the Soviet Union and the West European states.

In reply to a Hungarian question whether the Soviet Union had an East European policy, the Soviet security policy expert stressed that the Soviet Union advocated European development, and had no desire to restore the former conditions.

Three Presidents Attend European Bank Ceremony

WE1504183991

For reportage on the visits by CSFR President Vaclav Havel, Romanian President Ion Iliescu, and Yugoslav Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic to London to participate in the opening ceremony of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, see the International Affairs section of the 15 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Parliament Adopts Decision on Member's Files

AU2404202491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1930 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] This evening the Grand National Assembly ended a 31-hour session. After long debates, recesses, and consultations, the members adopted a decision in connection with the ill-intentioned dissemination of information about people's deputies.

The decision defines as illegal published articles and reports and any other form of dissemination of lists containing the names of persons supposedly working for State Security and the secret services.

The Inquiry Commission on Member of Parliament's Files is ordered within three days to return to the archive of the Grand National Assembly all materials connected with its activity. The minister of internal affairs is to grant the persons affected by the publications access to all the relevant materials, and, if necessary, also grant such access to the leaders of the relevant parliamentary groups.

Disruption in Parliament Over MP's Files

AU2304220191 Sofia BTA in English 2055 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—A row erupted in parliament today over the MPs' police files. Some opposition MP's handed in their resignations.

The row (which was not on the agenda) exploded after yesterday's issue of "FAKS" which carried a list of MP's connected with the political police.

No sooner had the sitting started than opposition MP's demanded the resignation of Chairman of the Grand National Assembly Academician Nikolay Todorov. He was accused of having ordered the duplication of the report identifying the MP's supposed to have been informers of the political police. That was an infringement of the procedure which parliament had approved for handling the files. "FAKS" is supposed to have obtained a copy of this report.

Mr. Rumen Danov MP of the SDS resigned from parliament today. He recently resigned also as deputy chairman of the Commission of Inquiry. Mr. Danov said he felt "personally guilty and helpless to cope by moral means with the underhand deals which run parliament in mysterious ways."

Dr. Petur Dertliev, co-chairman of the parliamentary Union of Democratic Forces, demanded the resignation of the chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, Mr. Georgi Tambuev MP of the BSP. Mr. Petur Beron, the ex-leader of the opposition and the first victim of the files affair, also demanded Mr. Tambuev's resignation.

Opposition MP's pointed out in their speeches that the files scandal is part of a scenario intended to destroy parliament which recently started working hard on economic legislation.

In a special statement the Socialists' leader Mr. Aleksandur Lilov proposed the establishment of a commission on files which the opposition would recognize. He said this commission should check the entire documentation connected with the files. Mr. Lilov demanded an investigation into the leak of information to "FAKS."

Other MP's who resigned from parliament today were Mr. Yordan Vasilev, editor-in-chief of "DEMOKRATSIYA," and the leaders of the Democratic Party, Mr. Stefan Savov and Mr. Georgi Markov. They stated that the way in which the files scandal exploded showed clearly that parliament in its present composition cannot work. People gathered around the National Assembly building chanting "Elections."

Danov Announces Criminal Investigation Leak

AU2304173291 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] At a news conference held at the Ministry of Internal Affairs today, Interior Minister Khristo Danov presented the ministry's new leadership.

Regarding the subject of the MPs' files, on which there has been so much comment during the last few days, Minister Danov made the following statement:

[Begin Danov recording] In connection with the publication of state secrets—and I should mention that we held a conference today at the Chief Prosecutor's Office on this subject—actions have been taken to prosecute against the editors in chief of the newspapers concerned, the signatories of the articles in question, and those who informed the authors of the articles. These actions have been taken in connection with the files, and in connection with the agents whose names were published, for example, in the DEBATI newspaper there was a list of people who worked in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The journal REPORTER 7 published an article concerning relevant installations which are top secret. All these people will be brought to court. The penalties are heavy, and they will be held under arrest.

You should bear in mind that the Order on State Secrets was issued in 1990, it is not a relic from the previous regime. Bulgaria is not as defenseless as some people would like. Libel in Bulgaria is punished, in contrast to some other countries. [end Danov recording]

Further on Leak

AU2304195491 Sofia BTA in English 1939 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—The Sofia City Prosecutor's Office and the Prosecutor General of the Republic ordered preliminary proceedings against the parties who passed information which constitutes a state secret to the newspapers "FAX," "REPORTER 7" and "DEBATI." The information concerns the files and the identity of employees and informers of the now disbanded State Security.

Some judiciary experts believe that the information carried by the three newspapers had been leaked to them from the State Security records by an office holder. Therefore, although the information was published by a civilian (or civilians), there are reasons to expect that the case will be handed over to the Armed Forces Prosecutor's Office.

Acting on orders of the Prosecutor General of the Republic, the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office yesterday instituted a preliminary investigation against the parties who made public information constituting a state secret in the newspapers "FAX," "REPORTER 7" and "DEBATI." The investigation has been assigned to the Criminal Investigation Department, its chief General Leonid Katsamunski announced.

Danov Refuses To Comment on Resignation

AU2304153191 Sofia BTA in English 1333 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Mr. Khristo Danov, minister of the interior of Bulgaria, today refused to offer any comment on his resignation. "No commentary," he said at the news conference of the Ministry of the Interior at which he introduced the ministry's new leadership.

The announcement of Mr. Danov's resignation was made last night in a television broadcast by Mr. Rumen Danov, deputy chairman of the Commission of Inquiry handling the police files of the MP's. "Minister Danov declared he had handed in his resignation," he said.

Progress in Markov Case Investigation Announced

AU2304180091 Sofia BTA in English 1444 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Major General Leonid Katsamunski, chief of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of the Interior, announced that formal steps have been made for the questioning of former KGB General Oleg Kalugin and of persons identified by him as having relation to the assassination of Bulgarian writer Georgi Markov in London or as possessing information which could be relevant to the investigation into this murder. In a recent series of interviews for the Bulgarian Television and other media Mr. Oleg Kalugin, former KGB officer, disclosed the connections between the Bulgarian and the Soviet secret services in this case. Gen. Katsamunski said that evidence is being collected about these relations.

He also said that the investigation has established a similarity between the assassination of Georgi Markov and the attempt on the life of Mr. Vladimir Kostov, a Bulgarian journalist who defected to the West. The investigators have identified the person who warned the writer that he would be attacked. (Markov's brother and wife had said there was such a person long before the taboo on the "Bulgarian umbrella" affair was lifted.)

Gen. Katsamunski pointed out that after analyzing archive materials, questioning witnesses and other proceedings, the investigators had gathered much more information than the press in Bulgaria and abroad had carried. The circle of specific persons who could have been involved in the Markov and the Kostov case is narrowing.

According to evidence submitted to the Armed Forces' Prosecutor's Office, high-ranking officers of the Interior Ministry have destroyed records that could have been of interest for the investigation.

SDS' Dertliev Gives TV Address on Party Goals

AU2504083791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 22 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Dertliev Declared Himself Against Extremism in Political Life in His TV Address"]

[Text] Doctor Petur Dertliev [chairman of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party] made the following statement on Bulgarian Television last night: "The constituents of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], who nevertheless voted for the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] in the past and today are either not willing to vote for the SDS, or are once more inclined to support the BSP, are our greatest concern."

According to Dertliev, the aforementioned constituents demand several things. In the first place, they demand peace, security, and reliable social positions in public life. This is the argument on the basis of which the BSP hopes to win the election.

Dr. Dertliev further resumed the main subject of his address—namely, the question of how to prevent people from rejecting the SDS as a whole, and how the SDS-center intends to win public support. Dr. Dertliev declared that this would be possible if the SDS should renounce its drastic statements, which create an impression of physical violence, or inspire the people with a feeling of insecurity about their jobs. The SDS-center, according to Petur Dertliev, should actually offer people all those things which make the BSP attractive for them, and should prevent the BSP from winning the people's support with its slogans.

Dr. Dertliev explained his own stand on the future election strategy. He pointed out that the SDS should not repel its supporters with increasingly aggressive behavior, but should strive for greater moderation in its propaganda methods. The Bulgarian Social Democratic Party and the SDS-center should try to attract people by guaranteeing their peaceful life, a peaceful transition to democracy, and security for their jobs. We should try to

attract, rather than repel the ordinary, rank and file working man who has voted for the BSP.

Dr. Dertliev explained that they, the brothers who share the same fate, and who have not enjoyed any privileges in the past, should be the potential SDS constituents and that the SDS should be a guarantor of democracy for them. Without such people Bulgaria would not exist and the peaceful transition to a true democracy would be impossible without them.

SDS-Center Issues Declaration

AU2504080291 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 19 Apr 91 pp 1,3

[Political declaration of the Union of Democratic Forces-Center issued in Sofia on 18 April: "Toward New Parliamentary Elections"]

[Text] Our motherland is living through difficult and crucial days. The struggle for democracy has entered a decisive stage. The people are suffering from the hardships of national disaster. People are confused and have lost their confidence. What they need today is a union based on clear political objectives. The victory of renewal requires the joint efforts of all honest and patriotic Bulgarians.

The Grand National Assembly, which was elected for the purpose of establishing the foundations of the new Bulgarian democracy and of investing economic reform with new legislation, has turned into a place where the interests of the Bulgarian Communist Party/Bulgarian Socialist Party [BCP-BSP] are defended by its parliamentary majority. The last two BSP governments did not accomplish anything toward promoting the country's administrative and economic reform. The Bulgarian economy is in a desolate state—the market situation is desperate, production has dropped, a considerable budget deficit, a growing foreign debt, and a drastic increase in unemployment prevail.

The democratic opposition is subject to pressures. The manipulation of the terms "left wing" and "right wing" help the BCP/BSP to introduce a split in the opposition's ranks. Some SDS circles cannot resist such provocations and have adopted too hasty measures. A second group of people are obstructing progress by implementing the scenarios submitted by their masters from the ruling nomenklatura. A third group of people are just pursuing their own ambitions.

By establishing the SDS-center, the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS] and the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party [BSDP] tried to restore some order to the home of the democratic forces. Loyal to their popular traditions and aware of their responsibility for the motherland's fate, the two parties are trying to achieve a real and prompt change by peaceful efforts and in the interest of all Bulgarian citizens.

Our program is specific and clear:

1. The SDS-center calls for prompt parliamentary elections. The elections are a means of successfully developing the democratic process. We do not need elections as such, but elections guaranteeing a categorical victory of democracy. The victory requires clear goals and a strict organization.

2. The SDS-Center must strive for the adoption of a democratic constitution and economic laws, guaranteeing the progress of reform. Emotional appeals for the imminent dissolution of parliament can only delay the changing of the system.

We insist on and we shall struggle for a new law on elections guaranteeing the access of the most worthy and just representatives of the political forces in accordance with their influence in society. Bulgaria needs a highly qualified and efficient new parliament.

3. The SDS-center thinks that economic reform should develop on the basis of a well-advised, clear, and universally acceptable program, privatization included. We categorically oppose any form of privatization which is likely to legalize the economic power of the communist nomenklatura. Privatization for us means liberalization and the opening up of opportunities for the subsistence and future prosperity of every honest and industrious Bulgarian citizen. We would like to create a powerful middle class earning a solid income, which is the backbone of every affluent society.

We demand a just privatization, and we consider the following measures as guarantors of its success:

—The restitution of all the people's property that was illegally seized by the BCP/BSP and by its nomenklatura, and of the property seized by the Communist Party's satellite political and social organizations which still belongs to their successors. For this purpose the parliamentary group of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party submitted a relevant bill to the legislature;

—The restitution of, or compensation for the confiscated properties to their former owners. This act should eliminate a historical injustice that would obstruct any further progress.

—Guaranteeing the right of workers, technicians, engineering cadres, and economic managers to participate in the distribution of profits and in the management of enterprises: We wish to provide opportunities for capable, honest businessmen and managers. The replacement of the economic nomenklatura is not a whim of ours, but a necessity for the enterprises. We shall not permit privatization to take place behind the backs and at the disadvantage of the working people.

—The development of all forms of state, public, and private property, under the true competitive conditions of a market economy. The restoration of the Bulgarian cooperatives' traditions is of particular importance for us. This is the most convenient,

prompt and effective form of privatization, especially in the agricultural sector, and in the branches providing for the most essential needs of the population.

—Guaranteeing the development and protection of Bulgarian business and advantageously combining its interests with foreign investments in Bulgaria.

4. The SDS-Center declares itself against any delay in the restitution of land to its former owners. We are against the village nomenklatura plundering the property of the labor cooperative agricultural farms. This property belongs to all farmers, who are entitled to decide on its fate.

The Bulgarian peasants are capable of feeding their people and are ready to do so. They must be liberated, while the law should permit them freely to dispose of their land and of their crops.

5. The SDS-Center is convinced that a transition to the new economic system is impossible without the active social protection of the population. Only a sensible and well-balanced social welfare system can guarantee the success of our common goals. We are striving to build a state in which Bulgarians earn a well-deserved, adequate income.

6. The change of the system requires an atmosphere of social calm. Any manifestation of impatience and excessive risk serves the interests of those who are trying to arrest the process of democratization. We support law and order. They are the basic guarantees for the future of our democracy and for Bulgaria's new image in the international arena.

The SDS-Center is working for the consolidation of the democratic opposition and for a decisive victory over the forces of regression. Established on the basis of the joint goals and ideals of two traditionally democratic parties such as the Nikola Petkov BZNS and the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, the SDS-Center is not a new organizational structure. It further enriches the ideological spectrum of the SDS and extends its hand to the disappointed people who have lost faith, and are awaiting practical programs and actions outside the SDS framework. Only democratic forces are capable of building a democratic Bulgaria. Sofia, 18 April 1991. Signed: SDS-Center.

TU Decision on Inviolability of Property

AU2204143791 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 17 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Decision of the Coordinating Council of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria": "Trade Union Property is Inviolable!"]

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] after again discussing the issue of trade union property and noting the opinion expressed by the Grand National Assembly and the government on the bringing of a suit by the state in connection with the property of the former official trade unions, decided:

1. The KNSB Executive Committee and its commission on property must conclude by the end of April the work on the additional judicial and financial clarification of this issue. After discussing the information at the KNSB Coordinating Council it must be provided to the Grand National Assembly and the government.

2. The KNSB Coordinating Council thinks that recognizing the following fundamental tenets is in the interest of political and social peace:

a) The KNSB is the judicial heir of the former official trade unions, but it has no political responsibility for their actions;

b) Property acquired by the trade unions before and after 9 September 1944 through membership fees and donations cannot be the subject of disputes and claims;

c) After 9 September 1944 the state confiscated property valued at 50 million leva, which must be unconditionally returned to the KNSB;

d) Property given by the state to the trade unions in connection with the implementation of functions entrusted to them by the state, and valued at 200 million leva, has been returned in implementation of the decisions of the KNSB Constituent Congress and Decree No. 88 of the Council of Ministers.

3. The KNSB warns that attempts to impose a different approach toward trade union property will be considered grounds for withdrawing our participation in the agreements on political and social peace, and for initiating independent steps to protect our members.

4. The KNSB Executive Committee should continue its contacts with the "Podkrepa" Labor Confederation in connection with the trade union property.

5. The KNSB Executive Committee should inform the international trade union organizations (the European Trade Union Confederation and the International Conference of Free Trade Unions), as well as the International Labor Organization, about the trade union property issue, and if necessary, seek their cooperation.

Position on Civil Peace

AU2204140091 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 17 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB], after analyzing the situation in the country, the increasing social tension, the threat of a new legislative and governmental crisis, and the danger for the progress of the economic reform and the anticrisis program, expresses the following position:

1. The KNSB Coordinating Council confirms its position of November 1990, that the Grand National Assembly must dissolve itself after adopting the package of basic economic laws (the Trade Law, the Law on Foreign Investments, and the Law on Privatization), and the new constitution. This must take place as soon as possible. The KNSB respects the legitimate right of the political forces represented in the parliament to determine the most suitable date for the new elections.

2. The KNSB does not support nationwide strike activities at this difficult period for the country. However, the crude and deliberate violation of the Social Peace Agreement by one of the sides that signed it, could justify such activities.

3. The KNSB warns the government about the daily increasing danger in delaying the adoption of the second set of protective measures, providing assistance for the socially deprived and poor people, and the lack of a national program on employment and struggle against unemployment.

The KNSB Coordinating Council recommends to the KNSB Executive Committee and to the representatives of the confederation in the national tripartite commission on coordinating interests to not sign an agreement on the second stage of the economic reform without first resolving those problems, agreeing on the new compensations for April and May, and specifying the regulations on free negotiating of the labor wage after 1 June 1991.

Zhelev on Economic Reforms, Western Aid

AU2204195391 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 19 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with President Zhelyu Zhelev by Katalin Decsi; place and date not given: "Hungarian-Bulgarian Relations on a New Basis"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Text] In the course of the Bulgarian-Hungarian presidential talks, a political statement, a trade agreement, a protocol on the changing over to convertible accounting, and a document containing the renewal of an agreement about visa exemption were signed or initialed. After concluding the talks, Zhelyu Zhelev and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz gave an international news conference and, subsequently, Zhelev gave an exclusive interview to our reporter.

[Decsi] A part of the public is invariably irritated by the fact that the Bulgarian regime failed to change. At the same time, the socialists won at the legislative elections last year. To what do you attribute this dichotomy?

[Zhelev] The socialists won the elections, but this does not mean that they are stronger than the opposition. In spite of having majority in the National Assembly, they cannot govern the country. They were forced to surrender the presidential post, governing, and eventually the government, too.

It is also untrue that the regime is not changing. The Assembly has accepted the law on land, which will fundamentally transform the position of Bulgarian villages. According to it, the land will be returned to its previous owner, which practically means the demolition of the kolkhoz system. The kolkhoz system was artificially set up according to the Soviet Union's example and it proved to be unviable.

The government has launched its economic reform. We have completely freed prices, raised interest rates, and also freed exchange rates. We are in the second phase now, namely decentralization and privatization, and we have already taken the first steps. We will take these further in the near future. The Assembly has accepted the law on trade, and also on foreign investment and economic competition; thus, we have created the legal basis for the reform, giving the government a free hand.

I do not agree with the statement that the situation in Bulgaria is unchanged; in many respects we progress the same way as Poland, the CSFR, or Hungary does. The difference is that here, the former communist party has a supposed majority in the Assembly. Even this is a formal difference only. The united opposition has 47 percent of the votes; on the other hand, many have changed sides to the opposition recently.

[Decsi] Does Bulgaria expect much Western aid?

[Zhelev] Naturally, because we would not be able to transform the economy without foreign help. We made an agreement with the International Monetary Fund before the reform, we accepted all their conditions, and we executed the first phase of the reform in an exemplary fashion. We wish the second phase to be just as successful. The European Community has also joined our helpers, they too provide certain sums of money as aid.

[Decsi] In your view, are the political lawsuits, as in the case of Todor Zhivkhov, necessary?

[Zhelev] Yes, they are. After all, people who committed crimes and acted unlawfully must be called to justice. Zhivkhov distributed apartments, appeased the intelligentsia, and bribed them. He did all this at the country's expense. They bought Western cars at ridiculous prices. While the average pay was around 200 leva, a Politburo member would receive 1000 leva per month just for food. U.S. dollars were bought at ridiculous prices. They abused volunteer work. In this way they built large villas. For example, a building that costs 1 million leva today would only cost its owner 40,000-50,000 leva then. We have to tell the public about these things, so they can find out what sort of people governed our country before us.

'Illegal' Radio Station Begins Broadcasting

AU2404183591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1552 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] A few minutes ago we received a statement by the leadership of the Interdepartmental Commission on

Radio Frequencies under the Council of Ministers, which I will read in full and without alterations:

On 22 April 1991, Station 98, the first illegal radio station on the territory of Sofia, began broadcasting. The broadcasts are in violation of a number of legislative acts, the Constitution, the Law on Communications, and Article 348 of the Penal Code, as well as contravening the regulations of the Interdepartmental Commission on Radio Frequencies.

Despite the issue of an official order to suspend the transmissions, the station continued to operate today. In accordance with the rights granted to it, the Interdepartmental Commission on Radio Frequencies has taken actions to stop this activity and to legally prosecute the offenders.

The Interdepartmental Commission on Radio Frequencies strictly observes the international agreements and conventions that have been signed to provide control over radio frequencies and, as the only authorized state organ in Bulgaria, cannot permit illegal broadcasts for which the generally accepted term is radio piracy.

The Interdepartmental Commission on Radio Frequencies states that such actions may lead to unforeseeable interruptions of the operation of radio systems used for security, defense, transportation, emergency medical services, and other purposes.

It is not known whether the required public health standards have been observed to ensure the health of those living in the vicinity of broadcasting equipment.

The commission will continue in a timely fashion to take all necessary measures to put a stop to such violations.

The statement is signed by Atanas Popov, chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission on Radio Frequencies under the Council of Ministers.

'No Surprises' in Chernobyl Aftermath Trial

AU2404193391 Sofia BTA in English 1726 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 24 (BTA)—"The course of the Stoichkov/Shindarov trial so far has confirmed the thesis of the prosecution," Prosecutrix Milka Boyadzhieva told the BTA today. According to her the hearing of the case against former chairman of the governmental Committee for Management of Natural Disasters and Major Industrial Accidents and the former sanitary inspector general, charged with mishandling the protection of the population after the Chernobyl accident in April 1986, is proceeding without any surprises.

The prosecutrix finds that some of the witnesses are trying understandably to free themselves from guilt and protect the organizations they are representatives of. According to Prosecutrix Milka Boyadzhieva, however, in this way they have indirectly testified in favour of the defendants.

General Mircho Asenov, former deputy minister of national defence and member of the governmental committee chaired by Stoichkov, has also been summoned as a witness. He gave evidence as to the measures taken by the Army to protect its staff from the radiation after the Chernobyl accident. The orders issued by Army commanders to regulate these measures were mentioned.

According to General Asenov there were no restrictions to prevent department heads from taking action for decreasing risks. It all was a question of initiative and brains, he said.

The witness stressed that the measures taken by the Army were justified from the standpoint of the radiation situation in the country. Six or seven months after the accident the leadership of the Ministry of Defence established the positive effect of the measures.

The hearings are going on tomorrow.

Ludzhev: Deficit Could Reach 20 Billion Leva

AU2404205591 Sofia BTA in English 2000 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 24 (BTA)—"The budget is in a critical situation. Bulgaria may fail to fulfil the agreements with the International Monetary Fund. The budget deficit can reach twenty billion leva, and thus exceed by far the planned limit of eight billion. Its revenue side is in a deplorable condition," Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev said today at a meeting of the Trilateral Commission for Harmonizing Interests.

"The 1990 'freehanded' policy has brought about the largest budget deficit since World War II," Mr. Ludzhev said.

Mr. Ludzhev expressed his anxiety that though inflation was curbed, the International Monetary Fund may demand a rise in the interest rates now that incomes have increased. The trade unions should counter the recent populist demands for pay rises which, according to Mr. Ludzhev, are incited by some political forces.

Zhelev, Goncz Discuss on Regional Cooperation

AU2504083391 Sofia SVOBODEN NAROD in Bulgarian 19 Apr 91 pp 1,4

[Interview with President Zhelyu Zhelev and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz by unidentified reporter in Budapest on 18 April—"Triangle Has Only Three Sides"]

[Text] [SVOBODEN NAROD] Dr. Zhelev, after your meeting with President Havel a momentum developed, after which the Warsaw Pact finally became a part of history. Can we expect a similar momentum after your meeting with President Goncz that will result CEMA being relegated to the pages of history?

[Zhelev] Our meeting with Havel really did prompt developments in the direction you mentioned, because afterward the Romanian and the Soviet leadership reacted very quickly. In this context we can speak about a momentum that prompted the more rapid solution of the Warsaw Pact issue.

At our meetings with President Goncz and Prime Minister Antal we established our fully identical attitude toward CEMA. This organization, precisely like the Warsaw Pact, must become a part of history. May our common opinion, which we publicly expressed, again produce a momentum that could nudge developments into a faster track.

Personally, I see no future for CEMA. It must be dissolved. As far as the new economic structures that must be established between our countries are concerned, this is a subject for another conversation.

[SVOBODEN NAROD] Mr. Goncz, for understandable reasons Bulgaria shows great interest in the "Visegrad Triangle"—Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. Is there a place for Bulgaria in this formation, and is it Hungary that will open the door for us?

[Goncz] I am glad that you asked me this question, because it pinpoints one of the basic problems of our time—the regional structures of cooperation. At present Hungary takes part in two such structures. The first is the so-called "Pentagonale." It includes Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. These are states situated in a region that has a common history going back 700-800 years. In the final analysis, cooperation in this region is not determined that much by geographic factors, but rather by a common past and traditional relations.

As far as the "Visegrad Triangle" is concerned—this is a cooperation treaty between three states, based on their geographical location. I can assure you that these are Central European states and that they are an organic part of the region. However, the treaty they signed does not represent a complete structure, but rather partnership in the name of goals that we want to implement in the future.

Both structures are related to the countries' geographical location in the region. However, those structures are not directed against anyone and do not exclude anyone. Furthermore, the forms of cooperation have not been completed yet. Perhaps we should wait a bit longer before we decide with assurance what structures we should join and in what form it is to be done.

Therefore, I think that at the present stage it is completely natural to inform our neighbors and friends about the nature of those cooperation treaties. Naturally, we must take into consideration the fact that in addition to the central European cooperation structures, there also are some friends of ours who live a bit further away, but with whom we would also like to cooperate. I think that this principle also applies to the Balkan peninsula regional structures in which Bulgaria participates or will participate. Hungary also has an interest in this part of the world, albeit to a lesser degree.

Foreign Minister Ends Talks in Bucharest

AU2304203491 Sofia BTA in English 2010 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, April 23—Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov ended his visit in Romania. After a second session of talks with his Romanian counterpart Mr. Adrian Nastase it was reported that the sides had started working on the draft of a political declaration which would replace the still effective bilateral treaty, already out-of-date in the new political conditions. The declaration will cover matters of shared concern, including the improvement of the condition of the environment in border areas, both as regards chemical pollution and the nuclear contamination hazard. The political declaration precedes the new Bulgaro-Romanian treaty which will reflect the profound political and economic changes in the two countries.

The ministries decided that the currency exchange requirement for the entry of Bulgarians and Romanians in the two countries will be lifted at an early date, simultaneously and reciprocally.

The need to restore and conserve Bulgarian cultural and historical monuments in Romania, some of which suffered considerable damage during the communist dictatorship, was high on the agenda. An agreement on cultural exchange is about to be signed shortly.

Among the topical international issues, special attention was paid to the prospects for regional cooperation, both within the Black Sea economic zone initiative and with the countries of central and Western Europe. Views were exchanged on the establishment of new structures for security and cooperation on the continent.

Both ministers found the talks constructive and frank.

Today Mr. Viktor Vulkov was received by Prime Minister Mr. Petre Roman and President Mr. Ion Iliescu.

Zhelev, Vulkov Comment on Visit to Hungary

AU2404203091 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 19 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov, and Ivan Pushkarov, Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Services, by Vanya Encheva and Georgi Traykov at Sofia Airport on 18 April: "Meaningful Cooperation"]

[Text] On 18 April the Bulgarian delegation led by Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, returned from Budapest to Sofia. The delegation was welcomed at Sofia Airport by Prime Minister Dimitur Popov; Academician

Nikolay Todorov, chairman of the Grand National Assembly; Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev; and other officials.

At Sofia Airport Dr. Zhelev was kind enough to give an interview for the readers of ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME:

[Zhelev] Our talks during our visit to the Republic of Hungary were extremely cordial and sincere. We found that our views fully coincide on all issues. It turned out that our viewpoints are identical regarding the market economy and developing the institutions of parliamentary democracy. Even the differences are not so great. Although Bulgaria began the reforms somewhat later, in certain spheres it has made more progress. I am thinking of the Land Act, on which discussion has just started in Hungary.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] What are the prospects for further development of our bilateral relations?

[Zhelev] I feel that the four documents we signed open the way for broad cooperation based on market economy principles. It is of course self-evident that under the new conditions existing in both Hungary and Bulgaria changes must be made in the principles of trade, as well as in all the other forms of economic cooperation. We had no differences on these issues.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] Have we any hope that the "troika" of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland will open up and become a "group of four"?

[Zhelev] This is our secret hope. The Hungarians have a very sympathetic attitude toward us, and closely follow what is happening in Bulgaria. They warn us not to attempt to copy them in everything, to avoid making the same mistakes.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] In your view, has Hungary made a final break with communism?

[Zhelev] Hungary has parted with communism. At the moment their attention is focused on the voluntary handover of power by the former Hungarian Socialist Workers Party. President Arpad Goncz stressed this on two occasions.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] We asked Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov to give his assessment of the meetings and talks in Budapest.

[Vulkov] The visit formed a continuation of a series of visits by President of the Republic Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev which are aimed at renewing Bulgaria's relations with other states. As you know, until recently Hungary, like us, was a member of the Warsaw Pact, and has also taken the road to democracy. I would like to point out the extremely cordial reception given to the Bulgarian delegation. We established with satisfaction that our views coincide on all main questions. Of course, the most important result for the development of our bilateral relations was the signing of the Declaration on Relations Between Bulgaria and Hungary, which provides a basis for signing a bilateral treaty between the two countries in the near future. As you know, an agreement was also signed on relaxing visa regulations, which will undoubtedly help to extend our contacts. The economic documents which we signed are also extremely timely and important. In essence they mark the start of a new climate in trade relations between the two countries during the next five years and—what is extremely important in the new conditions—a transition to new conditions of payments between the two countries.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] What problems were the center of attention in your talks with your Hungarian colleague Geza Jeszenszky?

[Vulkov] During our meetings, which formed a continuation of our talks about a month ago in Sofia, on this occasion we spent more time dealing with issues of a topical international nature. I will stress that we established the similarity and unity of our views and positions regarding our countries' approach toward Europe and the European institutions and our general criteria for security, and had a very useful exchange of information on our relations with the other European states, especially with our common neighbors. We also examined our relations with such important states as the United States, USSR, Germany, and others.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] Can we talk about a new start having been made in Bulgaro-Hungarian relations?

[Vulkov] Yes, of course. The visit and the results achieved in Budapest are part and parcel of the transition of Bulgaria and its foreign policy to new treaty relationships with its partners.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] As is well known, Budimir Loncar, Yugoslavia's federal secretary of foreign affairs, arrives in Bulgaria tomorrow. What do you expect from the forthcoming talks?

[Vulkov] The visit is in response to the invitation that I extended to Mr. Loncar during our meeting in Madrid. I look forward with interest to the visit of my Yugoslav colleague. I believe that at the present time both sides are interested in such a dialogue.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] Will you also examine the problems which, as is well known, create obstacles to the development of relations with our western neighbor?

[Vulkov] We will not set any restrictions on the subjects for discussion, but will also talk about the problems existing between us. This is indeed the purpose of such meetings and talks—to examine the difficulties and attempt to resolve them.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] We also asked questions of Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade, and services.

[Pushkarov] I formed a high assessment of this visit. Everything that we agreed upon is sealed by our signatures. The agreements reached concern important

aspects of our mutual relations. Until now, because we have been bound up in our own problems, we, as it were, have forgotten about one another. Now, one senses that a major reassessment is taking place of the possibilities for increasing economic activity between Bulgaria and Hungary. The talks between Presidents Zhelev and Goncz were more than a normal diplomatic meeting and were conducted in a warm human atmosphere. On the other hand, in the economic sphere we signed basic agreements whose absence had created certain difficulties in the past. With respect to my own sphere, namely industry and the reform, I can express satisfaction with the talks we held. I had a meeting with the "Hungarian Balcerowicz," the minister of finance. I also held talks with Hungary's minister of industry and with the chief of the Hungarian state property agency, who deals with privatization issues. I return in a very optimistic frame of mind regarding the mutual relations between Bulgaria and Hungary.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] You raised the matter of privatization. Will we manage to carry it out, despite everything?

[Pushkarov] There are many techniques that we might utilize, but the more important thing is to use privatization to reduce social tension. We should not attach prime importance to the financial result, which is not always the most important thing in the privatization process. The chief thing is to motivate the people. Regarding the restoration of property to its former owners, this problem is much more difficult in Hungary than in Bulgaria. I believe that we will complete the return of property sooner.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] What are your arguments in support of such a claim?

[Pushkarov] The amount of property that was nationalized in Hungary is much greater than in Bulgaria, which means that much more funds will be needed during the return to private ownership. However, Hungary has a far better developed banking and money exchange system, and in practice possesses a complete infrastructure, which will help them to resolve these issues.

[ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME] What kind of interest was shown in economic dialogue with Bulgaria?

[Pushkarov] The Hungarians show some interest in Balkankar, in its cooperation with Ikarus; they are also interested in our Chavdar plant and in a number of Bulgarian agricultural engineering products, which used to be popular in Hungary but have become somewhat forgotten. The Hungarian side urges that we reestablish our market positions. I return with many new ideas, which we now have to work on.

Prime Minister Discusses USSR Trade Agreement

AU2404205491 Sofia BTA in English 1948 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 24 (BTA)—"Bulgaria and the Soviet Union will hold talks in mid-May to negotiate a new agreement on bilateral economic and commercial relations," Prime Minister Dimitur Popov said today at a meeting with representatives of the Federation of Scientific and Technical Societies. He said that he had informed officially Soviet Ambassador Viktor Sharapov of the decision of the Bulgarian Government which sees in the USSR an advantageous partner.

Mr. Popov explained that a new clearing system will be introduced in the two countries' economic relations.

Todorov Interviewed on Visit to USSR

AU2504075391 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 18 Apr 91 p 2

[Interview with Grand National Assembly Chairman Nikolay Todorov by Mitko Bozhkov; place and date not given—"Let Us Preserve What Is Beneficial For Both States"—first two paragraphs are DUMA introduction]

[Text] A five-member Bulgarian parliamentary delegation led by Nikolay Todorov, Grand National Assembly chairman, visited the USSR. During the six-day visit in the USSR our parliamentarians had talks with Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Genadiy Yanayev, USSR vice president, and leading figures of the union and Russian parliaments. In Kiev the delegation met with Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. A Bulgarian-Ukrainian memorandum was signed on that occasion.

Political willingness to observe a period of transition and preserve what is beneficial for both sides until the new realities assert themselves was expressed by both sides, Academician Nikolay Todorov said.

[Bozhkov] This seems logical, despite the fact that certain circles in Bulgaria's political life reject all contacts with the USSR.

[Todorov] We would be making a great mistake if we forget or ignore the truth, namely, that the USSR is the superpower that is geographically closest to us. The USSR is experiencing a complex stage of restructuring, which simultaneously affects the political system, the economic structures, and the ethnic republics and oblasts. However, the USSR continues to be a great country with a huge potential and role in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world.

[Bozhkov] What can you say about the talks you conducted?

[Todorov] The talks were exceptionally sincere. They allowed us to point out both the difficulties and open

problems of bilateral relations. Concern was expressed with the fact that the pace of dissevering existing relations was significantly faster than the pace of creating new mechanisms which are to replace those relations. The tenfold decrease in trade and the delivery of raw materials and other basic materials seriously threatens our country with unemployment, because many productions must be discontinued.

[Bozhkov] Do the partners understand our position?

[Todorov] They promised to adopt the necessary measures and review decisions that have already been adopted, related to overcoming the difficulties that emerged in Komi in connection with the participation of Bulgarian construction workers in Soviet projects. In our talks we also touched upon some unresolved issues, related to expanding cooperation in certain priority areas, higher education, and so forth.

[Bozhkov] What are the key points of the Ukrainian-Bulgarian memorandum that was signed?

[Todorov] The memorandum especially emphasizes the need to preserve the existing trade-economic, scientific-technical, and other relations, and to continue to develop them in accordance with the new realities. The idea of signing a government agreement in the near future on developing economic exchange and direct relations between Bulgarian and Ukrainian companies and economic organizations was supported.

The memorandum notes the importance of cooperation within the framework of the Danube commission, in which the Ukraine has resumed its regular participation. Both sides expressed willingness to cooperate in developing conditions of promoting economic relations in the Black Sea region, and countering the pollution of the Black Sea and the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

[Bozhkov] I suppose, Mr. Todorov, that you expressed interest in the large number of Bulgarians who live in the Ukraine?

[Todorov] Of course. I noted the measures to satisfy their national-cultural needs that have been adopted.

Electric Power Supplies From USSR Interrupted

AU2504083991 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 20 Apr 91 p 1

[Stoyan Sirakov report: "The Restrictions on Electricity Again Raise Their Head"]

[Text] The country has not received any supplies of electricity from the Soviet Union for the past two weeks. Because of this the drop in power has been in the region of 800 megawatts and the current as from today will fluctuate, stated Prof. Lyudmil Genov, Chairman of the Energy Committee at yesterday's meeting of the Commission for Operational Coordination and Control of Energy and Raw Material Supplies in the country.

The official version for this is that repairs need to be carried out on the grid, but the possibility that this is caused by lack of financial resources for the second quarter of the year, cannot be ruled out, he said. Repairs begin on Monday on the fourth block of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and power supplies will fall by another 500 megawatts. That is why to get the sixth block running has become the first priority of the commission and the country, said Mr. Aleksandur Tomov. A decision was made at the meeting to seek international aid for the nuclear power plant from Paris, Vienna, and Brussels.

Reserves are sufficient for gasoline coupons and the situation here is relatively stable. The bad thing is that only one tanker of the expected delivery of 400 thousand tonnes of oil due by 9 April has arrived. The main reason for the lack of gasoline supplies are the fixed prices because sufficient funds are not available in the budget to cover the difference; however, Mr. Tomov thinks that the situation ought to be more stable in May.

Quantities of diesel for agricultural use ought to be centered on areas having difficulties—namely the Plovdiv district—the commission decided. The problem still remains, however, of what to do with those users who are persistent non-payers.

The supply of petroleum products to the Blagoevgrad region is extremely difficult. The 60-tonne fuel tank for Petrich in the region of the station has been taken over by the Vasil Markov repair plant. The commission's stand on these areas is that they will have priority when supplies are distributed.

The reservoirs have more water in them than in previous years but, even though it may seem strange, power consumption has risen for everyday needs, said Prof. Lyudmil Genov.

Resignations of Two Slovak Ministers Rejected

LD2404204891 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Report on Slovak National Council session by Alicia Bielikova; followed by interview with Slovak Ministers Michal Kovac and Rudolf Filkus by Magda Pospisilova—live]

[Text] [Bielikova] Good evening. The recapitulation will be brief because you had the opportunity to follow our direct relay and because we have an interview ready. In the beginning, the 13th meeting of the Slovak National Council was addressed by Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko, who acquainted the plenum with the decision of the Presidium on the changes in the government. Then a short address was delivered by Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky.

As for amendments to the meeting agenda, many did not get through the voting; for example, inviting former Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar to the meeting and letting deputies to the Federal Assembly address the meeting—namely Messrs. Meciar, Knazko, and Zelenay. The suggestion of 35 deputies to recall Deputy Prime Minister Jan Kucerak was approved, and it should constitute the next point on the agenda. The proposal to reconstruct the Slovak National Council Presidium should constitute a part of the political debate.

Virtually all the time since the morning meeting has been filled with interpellations of deputies to the members of the government. They concern almost all spheres of our life.

Interpellations were interrupted, following the lunch break, by Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko, who said that the Presidium had just had an extraordinary session because it received notifications from Ministers Rudolf Filkus [Economic Strategy] and Michal Kovac [Finance] about their resignations. Frantisek Miklosko read a resolution according to which the Slovak National Council Presidium did not accept the resignations of these two ministers.

Now over to Magda Pospisolova, because she has the two ministers at the microphone.

[Pospisilova] Messrs. Ministers, what made you submit your resignations?

[Kovac] I was guided by the results of the government reconstruction at which the Slovak National Council Presidium arrived, and according to which the Platform for Democratic Slovakia is finding itself, through its main representatives [word indistinct] officials in the government, outside the government. We are of the same view as they are; therefore, we found it necessary to submit resignations.

[Filkus] There are three kinds of motives. One kind of motive stems from the fact that I think a certain parliamentary principle has been infringed upon, because there has been no discussion in the plenum or in the committees about whether or not the government is functional. Further, I think if someone compares and judges nonfunctioning of the government according to a program that was set for two years, and is doing it for the past few months, then these parameters cannot be compared. The third motive is a motive of solidarity. I think Minister Meciar, Minister Huska, and Minister Knazko have done a lot of responsible and conscientious work for our Slovak Republic, and I do not know why they had to leave the government.

[Pospisilova] The Slovak National Council Presidium, however, did not accept your resignation. Can one say in this connection that you or at least your Platform for Democratic Slovakia has found itself in the opposition? What will be your further functioning in this government?

[Filkus] By not accepting the resignations, it could appear that we are not in the opposition, but in the coalition. In fact, however, the two of us do not decide about it, because the Platform for Democratic Slovakia is truly in the opposition—that means the deputies to the Slovak National Council and the Federal Assembly. So things are being tackled in the sense that the government can work, but the question must be tackled radically in the nearest future.

[Pospisilova] Will you ask to be relieved of your post again?

[Filkus] Well, I do not think I know what is normally done within the framework of these movements, because this is the first time I have resigned and the first time it was not accepted. But I think, to add to what Minister Kovac has said, the main thing is what is going to happen in the nearest future—and that is our assembly. On the basis of this assembly we can become a movement or, if you want, a party that would be legitimate and could become a serious coalition partner with any other party or movement; and no one will any longer be able to tell us that we are not legitimate.

[Pospisilova] Thank you very much for your information.

Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Recalled

LD2404220191 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1940 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The meeting of the National Council, chaired by Deputy Chairman Jan Klepac, is continuing. [passage omitted] This is the viewpoint of the Slovak National Council: According to Article 131, Section 2 of Constitutional Law Number 143/68 on the Czechoslovak Federation, A) the Slovak National Council expresses a vote of no confidence in Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Jozef Kucerak; B) it sets to the Presidium of the Slovak National Council to recall Jozef Kucerak from the post of deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic. It is necessary that the Slovak National Council Presidium

meet to execute the above in the sense of the resolution. Prior to that, in the sense of Paragraph 19, Slovak National Council Chairman Miklosko takes the floor.

[Begin recording] [Miklosko] Dear Mr. Deputy Prime Minister Kucerak, dear plenum: Allow me to thank you for all that you have done for Slovakia and for the economy in this country since you have held this post. [passage omitted]

Dear Slovak deputy prime minister, parliamentary democracy for which we all fought is valid. In the sense of this parliamentary democracy, you have been recalled from the post of deputy prime minister as of today. I confirm this decision, because this is the only way into the future. But in the spirit of what is happening outside, I confirm it not only in this sense but in many other respects. What is valid is the legislature and nothing else. Democracy is valid also for the future, and everything that wants to rise above it will end sooner or later, as it is ending today. Once again, many thanks. [applause]

[Kucerak] Dear Mr. Chairman, dear Slovak National Council, dear colleagues, former colleagues in the government: Naturally, I respect the principles of democracy, which is why I fully understand as a natural fact that I submit to this decision and that it is your democratic decision. I have never felt like a great politician, and that is why I do not consider it a great personal tragedy that I am leaving this political scene. That is also why I am not saying that I will return in a month or a year, as some other kind of a politician, or that I will head meetings and strikes. I am saying nothing of the sort. Maybe I will take a rest, physical and psychological. I thank everybody for cooperation—colleagues in the government, as well as you in the committees.

Whoever takes over the responsibility for the economic reform, I assume they will continue at least in the main guidelines that the economic reform has set out. At the same time, allow me to say I am convinced that the economic reform in Slovakia will be successful only if it is not a reform of an isolated Slovak economy; if it is an economic reform within the framework of the federation; economic reform in which there is no chauvinism, racism, or anti-nationalism; if it is an economic reform that will truly aim at cooperation with all the peoples and nationalities. I have no feeling of bitterness over my departure. I have rather a pleasant feeling that I could take part in such a first historical step in transforming our economy, in the historical step that we dreamed about for years and which for us was sometimes hard to imagine. But dream has become reality, and I believe that it will indeed become reality in a few year's time. Thank you. [applause]

[Slovak Prime Minister Carnogursky] Dear Slovak National Council [SNR]: Here, on the territory of the Slovak National Council, I wish to thank Mr. Deputy Prime Minister Jozef Kucerak for the work he has done in the government so far. His work was truly exceptional. He gave direction to the economic reform and set out the criteria that we should have ahead of us. His nonparticipation will be missed in the government. I thank him yet again for the work in the Government of the Slovak Republic. At the same time, I want to tell you that the demonstrators, who exercised their right in front of the Slovak National Council building, got through the barriers marking the zone which, according to the law on citizens assembly, should not be crossed by the demonstrating citizens where a legislative body is sitting. Moreover, they broke the entrance door of the SNC building, threw vessels with some chemical in the SNR building, and broke a window of the building by throwing a stone. The head of the appropriate police unit in the building, about half an hour ago, asked them to leave the space in front of the Slovak National Council building. When they refused to do so voluntarily, police forces were deployed that pushed them away from the immediate vicinity of the Slovak National Council. So much for my report. [applause]

[Deputy Roman Zelenay] As a spokesman of the interparliamentary club of VPN-ZDS [Public Against Violence-Platform for a Democratic Slovakia] I should like to call you esteemed friends. On behalf of the club of deputies of VPN-ZDS, we want to thank all those citizens of Slovakia who in a cultivated and democratic form have expressed to us their support and sympathy. At the same time, however, we want to distance ourselves from any manifestations of violence, intolerance, or undemocratic methods that, in front of the SNR, were provoked by groups of persons who, by their behavior, are against what we stand for. We are therefore appealing to all the citizens of Slovakia to express in a cultivated and democratic way all their views. [end recording]

The 13th meeting of the Slovak National Council will continue tomorrow in a debate on topical social questions. The direct relay will start at 0900 tomorrow.

100,000 Attend Pro-Meciar Rally in Bratislava

LD2404175491 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1700 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] A rally of supporters of sacked Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar took place in the Slovak National Uprising Square in Bratislava this afternoon. The rally was organized by the Public Against Violence Platform for Democratic Slovakia. Some 100,000 people congregated on the square demanding early parliamentary elections.

Milan Knazko [former Slovak minister of international relations] appealed to the people who, he said, have the greatest legitimacy. He said that the Slovak National Council Presidium has not respected the facts and arguments in its assessment of the government's ability to function properly, and thus it has committed a political execution. He noted that in contrast to what Jan Carnogursky had to say today about the fragmentation of society, some 80-90 percent of the people support Vladimir Meciar.

Slovak National Council Deputy Chairwoman Olga Keltosova also spoke out against Vladimir Meciar's sacking from the post of prime minister, as did other speakers.

Immediately after the rally ended, a crowd of people marched on the building where the Slovak legislature is in session.

Rallies supporting Vladimir Meciar and demanding the restructuring of the Slovak National Council Presidium and early elections are also being held in Kosice, Vranov and Toplou, Michalovce, and other towns.

Eggs, Stones Thrown at Slovak Council Building

LD2404200191 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Now to the situation in front of the Slovak National Council building. After the end of the meeting on Slovak National Uprising Square, the meeting has moved here. The number of people is difficult to estimate. It appears that some are agitated. Some have thrown eggs and stones at the windows of the Presidium of the Slovak National Council, as we are told by Slovak Interior Minister Ladislav Pittner. They broke one window while doing so.

The plenum was briefed on this situation by Frantisek Miklosko, who said that the interior minister received an order to safeguard public discipline and peaceful deliberations. One cannot agree with this kind of behavior of the agitated crowd before the Slovak National Council building. This is not how you build democracy.

'Poor Health' Keeps Meciar From Attending Rally

LD2404203591 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Report by Jan Janosi and Igor Matlon from the pro-Meciar rally in Bratislava's National Uprising Square; date not given]

[Excerpts] The meeting has been organized by the Platform for Democratic Slovakia of the Public Against Violence. [passage omitted] Milan Knazko stressed that we are experiencing one of the important crossroads in the development of Slovakia. Either we want democracy or the enforcement of the interests of groups and individuals. All those present expected Vladimir Meciar. Knazko, however, explained Meciar's absence by his poor health. His wife, Mrs. Meciar, spoke instead of him. She said that, as a doctor, she could not allow her husband to come to the meeting and added only one sentence: Do not fight for Meciar, fight for democracy. [passage omitted]

Crowd Estimate at Slovak Legislature Reduced

LD2404205191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1930 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpts] A rally in support of Vladimir Meciar has taken place in Slovak National Uprising Square in Bratislava. According to its organizers, the turnout exceeded 100,000 people. [passage omitted]

Although the number of demonstrators in front of the Slovak legislature were later reduced to approximately 3,000, tension among the crowd is still growing. Before 2000 their deputies asked to meet with Slovak Interior Minister Ladislav Pittner. In a properly conducted discussion, they argued that tension is growing in towns and villages throughout Slovakia. Ladislav Pittner asked them to make use of the right to petition and to submit their demands to the legislature. He also noted that Vladimir Meciar was recalled by the legitimately elected legislature and that the creation of a new national leader cult surrounding him would not help resolve the present tense situation.

Pressure on the main entrance to the Slovak National Council building began to intensify while this conversation was taking place, so the police were brought to the scene.

Federal Interior Ministry Spokesman Vladimir Fendrych described as untrue reports alleging the ministry's special units have interfered. He also noted that if there are problems somewhere in Slovakia concerning public order, then resolving them is solely a matter for the local and Slovak police and for the Slovak interior minister.

Carnogursky Addresses Slovak National Council

LD2404131391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 0729 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Speech by Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky at the Slovak National Council Session in Bratislava—live]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, esteemed Slovak National Council: We have gathered here at the plenary session of the Slovak National Council—you, the deputies of the Slovak National Council, and we, the members of the Government of the Slovak Republic, after several hectic days—or even weeks—of looking for a way out from the political crisis in which the Slovak Republic found itself. The scene outside this session indicates that the hectic character of the past days is far from over yet. Many of us who are present here now have spent many hours in discussions and examination of various alternatives and assessment of known facts. The Slovak National Council Presidium has subjected the government's activity to a detailed scrutiny—from the use of screening materials to the assessment of its functioning as a whole. About 10 days ago, the government submitted a report of more than 100 pages on the fulfillment of its policy statement. The Slovak National Council Presidium has issued a detailed report on the results of its investigations. Both the government and the Slovak

National Council have been flooded with many facts—important facts and those of less importance—and facts and their assessment have resulted in the decision adopted by the Slovak National Council Presidium on changes in the government.

The Slovak National Council Presidium has appointed me to the post and also three new members of the government. Allow me at this time not to deal with individual facts, but let me outline the basic features of the present political situation in Slovakia and the decisive risks that Slovakia has been resisting and must still resist.

The split in the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement—a movement which won the legislative election—was the phenomenon that started the government crisis in Slovakia. I call it a phenomenon, because I do not view the split in the VPN movement itself as the underlying cause of the crisis. The very same thing happened in the VPN movement as happened shortly before that in the Civic Forum movement in the Czech Republic and in the Solidarity movement in Poland. The split in the originally united anticommunist opposition movement can also be seen in Romania and Bulgaria. Simply, the common enemy—the totalitarian power—has gone, and with this has gone the basic link of cohesion of the originally united antitotalitarian movement. However, the Civic Forum in Bohemia and Moravia has managed in a civilized way to divide itself into two or three political parties, and Solidarity in Poland has culminated in two almost classic basic political camps with several smaller partners. Nowhere has the victorious anticommunist movement broken up into such an internal contradiction and with such a bang as in Slovakia. Nowhere have criminal accusations arisen against members of what once was the same movement. The depth of the VPN split reflects the depths of the split inside Slovak society. Thus, the split of the VPN is only a phenomenal form of the political crisis because its roots are much stronger. Its roots show a split society, fluctuating between uncertainty in itself and accusation of others. Over the past days, while listening to indignant discussions of political opponents, I said to myself more than once that I was beginning to see why Slovakia has not, in the course of 1,000 years of its history, been able to build an independent state. An independent state can hardly be built with such a split society. Let us be aware of the split in Slovak society, because we shall have to live with it! A threat will be hanging over us, and it will cast doubts on the permanent character of our decisions.

In its practical form the split in society is reflected in the fact that this government has only a small majority in the Slovak National Council. The government accepts this fact, and it will strive in its practical activity to broaden its membership base in this plenum.

The split in the VPN movement was bubbling under the surface for some time, and after the Irencianske Teplice congress, it exploded into the open. That which was originally a kind of internal party dispute was taken into the government and thus stopped being an internal affair for the VPN only. Mr. Vladimir Meciar rightly said at the beginning of his government—idealistically, as it has turned out—that members of the government are nominated by political parties and movements, but when they arrive in the government, they stop immediately being delegates of parties and movements and remain only members of the government.

Disputes between members of the government originally nominated by the united VPN movement were happening again and again. It was obvious that the government in such a composition wass not able to work efficiently enough. Gradually this has been admitted by almost all members of the government, including Prime Minister Meciar. The Slovak Republic, however, needs a functioning government just like any other state needs it. The first level of a positive assessment of any kind of way out of a crisis is the ability of one or the other side to unify the government.

The open struggle of competing platforms in the government lasted for about a month, and it spread into all of society. It widened the split in society, it increased the citizens' uncertainty, and it increased the economic downfall. It was necessary to renew the government's ability for action. After repeated meetings and talks between political parties, those in the coalition and those outside the coalition, it has emerged that the only possible political base to overcome the crisis in the government is namely the base—the political grouping that creates this government that sits here in front of you. At present, it is not possible to create another government, and there is no legal basis for holding early elections, because an early election would be a disadvantage in itself.

In the interest of reducing the population's uncertainty and renewing the government's ability to govern, it was necessary to quickly reconstruct. It is possible that the public is not yet fully aware of all the disadvantages of a nonfunctioning government, and thus is not yet able to accept the reasons for the reconstruction of the government that has been carried out. For the reconstructed government, from the propaganda point of view, it would be better if it could take over later after revealing all the shortcomings of a government that has not been able to take clear decisions. The Slovak National Council Presidium, after talks with individual members of the government, had a clear picture about the consequences of the nonfunctioning of the government, or if you like the limited functioning of the government. This knowledge was decisive in making the decision not to wait any longer to reconstruct the government, but rather to do it immediately.

As I have already mentioned, the restoration of the government's full efficiency was an advantage in its own right, and it could be carried out only on the political basis upon which this government leans.

The government will have to make a decision about further proceedings with the construction of the Gabcikovo water project, about the modernization of the Slovak National Uprising enterprise in Ziar nad Hronom, about the methods of speeding up privatization, about the structural support of viable industrial branches, and about many other things. These decisions cannot be postponed.

I see as a particularly unfavorable feature of the recent political development in Slovakia—which is not caused only by the government—the political direction of important political forces that are able to influence the destiny of all of Slovakia.

In the last few weeks, we have registered the increased appearance of unfavorable reports on Slovakia in the world press. It would be too easy to blame others for them. Presenting arguments that are not substantiated by concrete facts has become a common practice on the Slovak political and journalistic scene. Efforts to bypass the democratically elected institutions of our state have been renewed, and in the political practice, demands and aspirations have been presented that obviously exceed the limits of Slovakia's political and economic possibilities. Relations in the federation have become worse, and Slovakia was driving itself toward isolation. Slovakia's internal and international isolation would be equal to a strategic defeat. Slovakia cannot leave the ranks of democratic and rationally thinking countries and cannot ignore its neighborhood. Slovakia can and must strive to increase its production potential and its international authority, but it can do it only through the constructive labor of us all, by suitable restraint, and by respecting its possibilities. All of this equals respecting the truth about our situation and position about which Hegel said that it is always concrete.

The Slovak policy of the last few weeks has been moving aside with an increased speed from the constructive line and was marking out slogans not supported by the political or economic conditions. The decline in the interest of foreign partners in economic cooperation was only one of the negative consequences of this line.

Esteemed deputies! I might have been speaking in too general terms and about trends of too long of term. It seems likely that at the next session of the Slovak National Council there will be a debate on the interim account of the fulfillment of the implementation of the government's policy statement, and there I and other members of the government will be speaking in much more precise and concrete terms.

Precise data, however, remains precise data only when it is put in a framework and is balanced in social, political, and economic terms. We can achieve a basic balance in Slovakia only by putting the current phenomena into the historical perspective and within the wider political setting beginning with our towns and villages and ending with Europe and the world.

The changed Slovak Government has a vision of Slovakia's position in history and also in our times: it will base its practical political steps on it and will repeatedly assess their success—along with you. Thank you.

Carnogursky, Knazko Interviewed on Situation

LD2404144591 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1035 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Interviews with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky and former International Relations Minister Milan Knazko by Erika (Vintourekova) on April 24; place not given—recorded]

[Text] A few hours ago our colleague Erika (Vintourekova) interviewed Slovak political representatives. She put the first question to new Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky:

[(Vintourekova)] Mr. Prime Minister, there is a large group of people outside [of the legislative building] who are not favorably inclined toward you. Are you afraid?

[Carnogursky] No.

[(Vintourekova)] Do you mind that you yourself have said that you are not a popular politician, and yet you have found yourself suddenly in the chair of the prime minister? Were you forced by circumstances?

[Carnogursky] My appointment to the post of prime minister has proved that popularity is not a decisive factor in filling chairs.

[(Vintourekova)] Is your appointment proof of the victory of the Christian Democratic Movement?

[Carnogursky] It could be a victory if the new government proves itself efficient in time.

[(Vintourekova)] Was it perhaps not a very prudent step to take the chair of prime minister in the current situation?

[Carnogursky] If you call me a prudent politician, it should not mean that I am a cowardly politician.

[(Vintourekova)] You will certainly recognize the voice which will follow now: [Former Minister] Milan Knazko answered the following questions last night:

[(Vintourekova)] How does it feel to be a recalled minister?

[Knazko] If you remember, I started as a minister without portfolio. Now I am again without portfolio, without a chair. I do not feel harm has been done to me, but in time perhaps the damage caused by this unqualified interference in the composition of the government, the damage caused by the current Presidium of the Slovak National Council, in particular by (Lendurska) and the Christian Democratic Movement, can be quantified.

[(Vintourekova)] Information was circulated yesterday by the Presidium of the Slovak National Council that Mr. Gal is planning to leave for Great Britain and depart from political life. What about you?

[Knazko] No, I am not leaving for Britain. I was not given such an offer and apart from that, I do not feel like leaving when the situation is like it is. On the contrary, I shall make a comeback.

[(Vintourekova)] Do you think that the wind is blowing from the Czech land?

[Knazko] The [direction of the] wind is not important in this case. A man should not move with changes in the direction of the wind. We should create stable Slovak politics.

[(Vintourekova)] Would you again take up a ministerial post?

[Knazko] I think that this is a very complicated problem and that in this situation it is inevitable that the composition of the government should be really functional, and I do not really know whether this can be done in a day or two.

Carnogursky: Economic Reform Must Come Quickly

AU2404122191 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky by Armin Wolf in Bratislava on 24 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] Some 200 angry demonstrators gathered around the entry to the Slovak legislative building this morning [24 April]. They are chanting slogans in protest against the dismissal of Vladimir Meciar, who has been very popular as prime minister. [passage omitted]

Jan Carnogursky is optimistic that he will remain prime minister. There is no alternative to my government, Carnogursky stated. Asked about the things he would do differently from Meciar, Carnogursky said:

[Carnogursky] The new government must work and argue in a more businesslike way.

[Wolf] What were the mistakes committed by the Meciar government?

[Carnogursky] First, it probably underestimated the need to make decisions and to argue in a businesslike way; second, it overestimated Slovakia's real position and its real potential.

[Wolf] Does this mean that Meciar was too nationalistic?

[Carnogursky] I would not describe it that way. It is not a question of nationalism but of a realistic assessment of Slovakia's economic, political, and other possibilities.

[Wolf] One of the main problems of your government will be the relationship to the Czech Republic. What is the model that you envisage: a federal state like the current one, or a loose federation of states?

[Carnogursky] The coexistence of Czechs and Slovaks in a single state should be laid down in a treaty. The contents of such a treaty will determine how close or how loose this coexistence is. We have not yet negotiated the contents of that treaty.

[Wolf] Still, you are in favor of Slovakia being given more powers than in the past.

[Carnogursky] Yes, I am.

[Wolf] My last question is on economic policy. Mr. Meciar supported a different course than the Federal Government in Prague. Do you support the rather radical market economic course of Finance Minister Klaus?

[Carnogursky] No, I think that abroad this issue is seen in a way that is too simplistic and too personal, always linked to Mr. Klaus, Mr. Meciar, or other people. Slovakia will carry out an economic reform, and we must implement this reform quickly. I am optimistic that we will achieve a single solution together with the Federal Government.

[Wolf] Economic reform has to be implemented quickly.

[Carnogursky] Yes. [passage omitted]

Transport, Communications Ministries in Slovakia

AU2304200091 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 19 Apr 91 p 1

[Interview with Engineer Stefan Nemes, CSFR first deputy federal minister of transport, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [HOSPODARSKE NOVINY] Is it true that the Slovak Republic will get its own independent Ministry of Transport and Communications?

[Nemes] Yes, according to information from Slovakia, the establishment of this ministry, the responsibilities of which may also include public works, was agreed during Wednesday's [17 April] talks among partners in the Slovak government coalition; that is, Public Against Violence, Public Against Violence-Platform for a Democratic Slovakia, Christian Democratic Movement, and Democratic Party. The proposal must now be approved by the Slovak Republic Government and the Slovak National Council. The new ministry should start operating either on 1 May or 1 June. The ministry's formation should not principally increase the number of state administration employees, because staff numbers in other ministries will be cut proportionately. The new ministry will have jurisdiction over all areas of transport and communications that have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the republics; that is, road and motorway

transport, administration of airports, river transport, construction and assembly organizations of the Czechoslovak State Railroads, the health care system for railroad employees, postal offices, and telecommunication services. It is assumed that, subsequently, a similar ministry will be established in the Czech Republic as well. In the Czech Republic, some powers in the area of transportation have gone over, for the time being, to the Ministry for Economic Policy and Development.

More Facts of Embezzlement Complaint Against Gal

AU2504092191

[Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA on 22 April on page 3, under the headline "Gentlemen, Cards on the Table," publishes a 1,000-word article by Lubo Rabay and Jan Fulle providing additional facts on the embezzlement complaint against Fedor Gal. The article identifies Veronika Zrunekova as the person who lodged the complaint against Gal, and it names Marta Cermakova as the second witness for the prosecution. Both of them worked in the Public Against Violence [VPN] Coordinating Center. According to the article, the documents lost from the Center were found in Cermakova's residence. However, not all documents were recovered, the authors report. Apparently there were two boxes, one was retrieved, and Cermakova "claims to have burned the other one." Yet the article quotes Federal Assembly Deputy Michal Kovac (VPN) as having admitted "that he knows where the documents are," and the authors list VPN documents they themselves managed to acquire. The authors arrive at the conclusion that "already at the time of proclaimed unity, some people were collecting important documents. They knew that if the material changed hands at the right moment, in a few months it could become the tool for elimination of political adversaries." Particularly interesting, according to the article, is the case of Jan Budaj, who had to leave politics following the vetting but has held government jobs ever since his departure was announced. There are many unexplained issues, the authors write, but "it should not be a part of the reality of today's political scene that those who have money can buy political power."

Nonaligned Activists Club Established in Slovakia

AU2404105691 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 22 Apr 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Club of Nonaligned Activists Is Also in Slovakia"]

[Text] The constituent assembly of the Club of Nonaligned Activists [KAN] in Slovakia was held in Banska Bystrica on Saturday [20 April]. Sixty delegates representing almost 1,000 members and KAN in Slovakia supporters evaluated the preparatory committee's activity and elected a 13-member Council of KAN in Slovakia Clubs. Vratislav Joachimstal was elected its chairman. In its adopted resolution it declares, among other things, its unequivocal support for the democratic forces asserting the principles of parliamentary democracy and radical economic transformation. KAN will also strive for compensation for the victims of the communist regime, will push for the de-Bolshevization of society, and so on. The proposal that it is unacceptable for the current Slovak prime minister to remain in his post was adopted by a majority of votes.

Pithart Views Decentralization Issues

LD2404222491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The 18th meeting of the Czech National Council continued into its second day today. This report is by (Alena Millerova):

[(Millerova)] After long talks, interrupted by innumerable technical and factual points of order and a number of breaks to enable the [deputies] clubs to meet, the deputies finally agreed to changes in the individual paragraphs and passed the government-sponsored bill on the property of the local communities before the lunch break.

After that, at 1400, the agenda was supposed to include the long- awaited issue of the constitutional setup. Prime Minister Petr Pithart, however, who was due to open this agenda item with a report on the standpoint of the Czech government—which was still thrashing out that standpoint late last night—was called away to Prague Castle and thus the deputies decided to go on to other agenda items until he returned. It turned out, however, that the bill regulating the conditions of sale and distribution of printed matter and artifacts likely to deprave and corrupt came in for much disucssion, and therefore it was moved that the bill be shelved and discussion on it be adjourned.

The entree to the discussion on the constitutional setup was served up in the foyer by a folk group from Velke Pavlovice, which not only sang but also danced. This was not enough, however, to lighten the difficult deliberations, as was proved by the serious tone of Petr Pithart's speech, in which he explained the principles adopted by the government in discussion of this matter:

[Begin Pithart recording] I do not hesitate to remind you of the risk associated with the territorial setup being contemplated, particularly its extreme version. Just as we are hearing about the specific Slovak features that demand special adaptation of the economic transfromation scenario from various parts of Slovakia, we are also having attention drawn to specific Moravian features in the economic sense too. In connection with the alleged exploitation of Moravia and with calculations used as evidence that Moravia is producing more than it consumes and that labor productivity is higher in Moravia than in Bohemia, demands have also been heard for special reform measures in the enterprise sphere—the microeconomic sphere—at least in certain Moravian

regions. These, however, would give rise to some sort of special economic regime reservations that would remain isolated from the macroeconomic mainstream, which must be integrated, with the same for all, be it Bohemia, Slovakia or Moravia. We must never lose sight of the fact that the economic transformation that we are striving to bring about is, particularly from the macroeconomic viewpoint, the same for all, and one that cannot be adapted on the grounds of some special condition or other. Consequently I consider the demand for a new scenario, this time a Moravian one, as dangerous, and I wish to draw timely attention to this. [applause]

The government will support the process of decentralization of the state administration and self-administration. The government considers the local authority the basic unit of territorial administration. The process of decentralization of the state administration must be carried through by transferring powers to the local authorities and those bodies vested with local authority status in such a way that these authorities become the first level of state administration, with all the implications. For us this means that it is only on the basis of these foundations that are as yet incomplete that self-administration of the larger territorial units can be developed. If we acknowledge—and the government does—that the Czech Republic is, in historical terms, made up of three lands, then we also say that autonomy for these lands cannot under any circumstances mean curtailing the rights of the lower-level units. [end recording]

[(Millerova)] Petr Pithart described the setup according to lands as the most workable one at present and called on the deputies in their deliberations to constantly bear in mind the priority of the reform of state administration and self-administration; specifically, the towns and communities, as well as the priority of the government, in other words, the economic transformation. No change or modification should undermine these, he said.

After Petr Pithart's speech, the deputies heard the standpoints of the individual deputies' clubs and then agreed that they need more time to discuss the report presented to them. Thus today they are going to continue their discussion on the pornography bill, and they will probably return to discussion of the constitutional setup tomorrow.

Poll Views Opinions on Czech Republic Arrangement

AU2304194091 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 19 Apr 91 p 2

["ij"-signed report: "Arrangement of the Czech Republic"]

[Text] Prague— The results of a representative sociological survey of views on the territorial and administrative arrangement of the Czech Republic that has been carried out by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences show that this issue is considered important but does not belong to the most urgent and serious problems that need to be tackled. Most respondents thought that the environment, social security, and the economic reform had priority over this issue.

Nonetheless, the inhabitants of Moravia in particular do not have the feeling that the Republic is arranged equitably. Yet none of the variants that have been proposed gained the support of the absolute majority of inhabitants of the Czech Republic.

The greatest support (37 percent) was given to the "regional" [oblastni] variant, which provides for the formation of between 15 and 30 administrative or self-administrative regions. Second came the "land" [zemska] variant, which provides for the division of the Czech Republic into two lands [Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia], each with its own administration and self-administration. This variant has the support of 28 percent of respondents. A union-type arrangement [spolkove usporadani] is preferred by 23 percent of those questioned. The least support was expressed for a combination between the regional and land arrangement (12 percent).

The majority of respondents was in favor of the introduction of self-administration at the level of districts and lands. The nature of the replies showed, at the same time, that many citizens find it hard to orient themselves in the arrangement of state administration and self-administration.

According to the results of the survey, even the urgent need to resolve the Moravian-Czech issue should not lead to radicalization in Moravia.

Civic Forum Groups Disagree on Economic Reform

AU2304122491 Prague CTK in English 1704 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Prague March 19 (CTK)—Federal Government members who represent the Civic Movement (OH), headed by Deputy Premier Vaclav Vales, disagree with Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and his Civic Democratic Party (ODS) over the further steps to be taken in the economic reform in Czechoslovakia.

This was confirmed today by Deputy Premier Pavel Rychetsky at a press conference of the OH.

He said that the OH has identical views with the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), represented by Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy.

According to Rychetsky, the OH view is that after the first steps in the macroeconomic sphere, which the OH regards to be positive, problems have to be solved in the microeconomy, i.e. in branches, regions and enterprises. The same view was supported by Dlouhy at an ODA press conference on Thursday. Rychetskky said that he noted the same views from several economics ministers at the government session yesterday.

The OH and the ODA were formed from two wings of the Civic Movement (OF), which was established in the first days of anticommunist protests in November 1989 and won a landslide victory in the June 1990 parliamentary elections. The ODA also ran on the OF slate in the elections but later separated from its activities.

Spokesman Vladimir Zelezny said the OH fully backs Rychetsky's statement in the Czech parliament on Tuesday who said that the "economic reform is insensitive to the locality, branch and enterprise, and probably also overly optimistic". "By no means is this an attack on the economic reform", Zelezny said.

Rychetsky Replies to Criticism of Civic Movement

AU2304091891 Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 20 Apr 91 p 1

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky by Petr Novacek in Prague on 19 April: "We Will Not Retreat"—first paragraph is CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY introduction]

[Text] It seems that the political situation is coming to a head and not only in Slovakia. Attacks—against the Civic Movement in particular—have multiplied in the past few days. Following yesterday's Civic Movement press briefing, we interviewed CSFR Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Pavel Rychetsky.

[Novacek] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, your recent remarks about the necessity of finalizing the microeconomic aspect of economic reform have been criticized in the past few days by M. Kondr from the Civic Democratic Party [ODS], and on Thursday [18 April] they were criticized by V. Dlouhy from the Civic Democratic Alliance [ODA]. In connection with Minister M. Kubat, Deputy D. Kroupa from the ODA has again been coming down on Prime Minister Pithart. Are you worried that criticism of your movement could be a signal for changes in the current political constellation prior to the scheduled elections?

[Rychetsky] We in the Civic Movement are convinced that these signs are indicative of the endeavor being made by some individuals—who are parting ways with the Civic Forum—to create a confrontationist situation. We are trying to prevent this. However, if such a situation arises, the Civic Movement will not retreat. We will assert our ideas for undertaking our obligations toward the citizens, for fulfilling the government's program, and for maintaining a stable democratic system in this country.

[Novacek] Do you not think that, behind the confrontationist signals coming from the ODS and the ODA, other groupings interested—of course—in premature parliamentary elections loom large?

[Rychetsky] Polarization and destabilization of the political forces—especially in legislative bodies—may, of course, lead to an increase in the endeavor by extraparliamentary parties to cause a parliamentary crisis that would bring about the Federal Assembly's dissolution and early elections. I would be glad if the politicians in the legislature were to realize this. They should be interested in ensuring that the legislature fulfills its mandate.

[Novacek] Unfortunately, it seems that some legislative groupings are flirting with the idea of precipitating elections. I have in mind the Christian Democratic Union [KDU] in particular.

[Rychetsky] Of course, I cannot exclude this possibility. On the one hand, the KDU may—in view of the fact that it has a relatively small representation in legislative bodies—determine the need to precipitate a crisis and call new elections. On the other hand, however, I have to say that in the legislative bodies the KDU is—so far—behaving in a very state-forming manner. It is aware of its responsibility for the legislature's work and for fulfilling its main task; that is, adopting new constitutions.

ODS Elects Klaus Chairman, Adopts Program

AU2304153791 Prague CTK in English 1723 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Olomouc, North Moravia, April 21 (CTK)—The two-day congress of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) ended today with electing Vaclav Klaus, the Federal finance minister, party chairman, and with approving its program called "road to prosperity".

The party's aim is to transform Czechoslovakia into a modern European state based on a civic society, in which the citizen, family, community and state will be the main pillars. ODS is convinced that one of the basic conditions for the observance of the political rights and freedoms is private ownership. It favors the maintaining of a federal state so long as its setup functions and will not hinder the transformation of society.

In the economic sphere, ODS will seek a resolute parting with state ownership of the means of production and their consistent privatization.

In agriculture the party favors the establishment of natural ownership relations to land and the rest of agricultural property.

In foreign policy, ODS intends to work towards ensuring the country's security and its stable development in the framework of European integration.

Social policy should focus on aiding the poor, elderly and sick or otherwise handicapped people, according to the ODS program.

Delegates to the congress called for the publication of personal data, functions and workplaces of people employed in intelligence, counter-intelligence and military intelligence services between February 25, 1948 and November 17, 1989, and their secret collaborators.

The congress said that information by the state-owned media, the television, radio and news agency CTK, was biased and asked groups of parliamentary deputies and the ODS executive council to hold talks with the government on the concepts of work and personnel of these media.

As regards Slovakia, the delegates supported parliamentary ways of settling the political crisis, as well as all forces in Slovakia which seek a functioning federation and pursue radical economic reform.

Speaking to journalists about possible alliances with Slovak political forces, Klaus said ODS would wait until the political scene there is clear.

Poll Examines Czech Party Preferences

AU2404133091 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 Apr 91 p 2

["res"-signed report: "Who Would Win Elections?"]

[Excerpt] Prague— Had elections taken place in the Czech Republic in March, the two Civic Forum wings combined—the Civic Democratic Party and the Civic Movement—would have received 27 percent of votes. The Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia would have finished second with 9 percent. It would have been followed by the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia with 7 percent, the agricultural parties with 6 percent, and the Czechoslovak Social Democracy with 5 percent. The Czechoslovak People's Party and the Christian Democratic Party would have received 3 percent each, the same as the Republicans. The Greens would have received 2 percent of votes. A total of 16 percent of those questioned were undecided, and 13 percent would not have voted at all. In Slovakia, Meciar's Platform for a Democratic Slovakia would have received 42 percent; the Party of the Democratic Left, 9 percent; the Slovak National Party, 8 percent; and the Christian Democratic Movement, 7 percent.

Those are the results of a poll conducted by the Association for Independent Social Analysis in March. [passage omitted]

Havel on Meeting With Czech Representatives

LD2404182991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Report on meeting of Czech political figures in Prague Castle on 24 April, followed by interview with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel by Stanislav Benda in Prague on 24 April—recorded]

[Text] President Vaclav Havel met with Czech political representatives in Prague Castle today. Attending the meeting were Czech National Council Chairwoman Dagmar Buresova; Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart; Vaclav Klaus, finance minister and chairman of the Civic Democratic Party; Jiri Dienstbier, minister of foreign affairs and deputy federal prime minister; and Czech National Council Deputies Petr Cermak and Jan Kalvoda. Presidential advisers Jiri Krizan and Ladislav Kantor were also present. Stanislav Benda asked President Vaclav Havel to assess the meeting.

[Benda] The talks are over after more than three hours, and now it is time to ask questions. It is rather ironic that the talks on the fate of the state were held in a room referred to as a starvation chamber. Mr. President, I nevertheless presume that you advanced from this poverty symbol in an altogether different direction. What is your assessment of the talks?

[Havel] Our meeting was a follow-up to my recent meeting with Slovak politicians. I met Czech politicians who speak for political forces represented in the coalition at the federal level. We had a very extensive and very detailed discussion of the very same topic—the process of drafting our new constitutions. We agreed on several things. First, the idea of a normal interstate treaty between the Czech and Slovak Republics based on international law principles is not acceptable to the Czech side. At the same time, the Czech side understands the need of the Slovak nation and political representatives to achieve a little more than a mere political declaration on coexistence, or a document lacking any legal or binding power.

Proceeding from these extreme limits, the majority of Czech politicians, or rather all of them, are resolved to take an important step to meet the Slovak demands. A kind of alternative proposal or offer, which would be originated by the Czech side, is beginning to take shape. The condition is that the process, or the motion, should be in keeping with our legal code and with our Constitution. It would probably be premature to give a more detailed explanation of the proposal because it must be further discussed with federal officials and representatives of the legislature.

We agreed to hold a joint meeting in Lany in mid-May, when we shall have talks on this topic again, but these will probably be much more specific talks. All the talks so far have been held at the level of political forces represented in the federal coalition, but the coalition partners on the republican level—i.e. the Democratic Party and the People's Party—will be invited to take part in the talks in Lany, if they do, indeed, take place. If we reach a specific solution or a proposal, then talks with other political parties represented in the legislatlure, and later with extra-parliamentary parties, will begin, of course.

[Benda] There should, of course, exist some common ground for all representatives. Can you describe this common ground in specific terms?

[Havel] This is exactly what we are looking for, is it not? So far, all those who have taken part in these debates have agreed that we should live in a common federative state. What we are looking for is a specific shape and

exact definition of the federation. What is really sought, and what is at this moment possibly most topical in terms of politics, however, is the process of drafting the federal constitution.

[Benda] Thank you.

Havel, Economic Ministers Debate Reform Issues

AU2304153691 Prague CTK in English 2019 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 21 (CTK)—Conversion of armaments production in Slovakia and the pace of economic reform were discussed between Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and Federal, Czech and Slovak Economic Ministers in a televised debate tonight.

The ministers said that none of the Slovak armaments enterprises have come up with a viable conversion program so far, though Czechoslovak banks are able to grant them credits worth up to 45,000 million korunas (1.5 million U.S. dollars). Enterprises have fatalistic attitudes, believing the state will solve their problems.

The ministers agreed that the disintegration of the federation into two independent republics would have disastrous consequences. Federal Premier Marian Calfa noted that none of the two sides have shown any attempt at coordinating their positions.

Federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and Czech Minister for Privatization Tomas Jezek said they were satisfied with the pace of privatization.

Other ministers taking part were Federal Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy, Federal Minister for Strategic Planning Pavel Hoffmann, Slovak Deputy Premier Jozef Kucerak and Slovak Minister for Economic Strategy Rudolf Filkus.

KDS, KDH, CSL Agree on Tripartite Setup

AU2404133991 Prague CTK in English 1713 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 22 (CTK)— Representatives of the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) told journalists here today that "the Moravian-Silesian problem is a problem of the Czechoslovak Federation as a whole, not a 'private' affair of the Czech Republic."

They said that, together with the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), a member of the Slovak Government coalition, and the Czechoslovak People's Party (CSL), the KDS proposes that the structure of Czechoslovakia be changed to a tripartite federation.

New Right Wing Denies Illegal Operation Charges

AU2304210291 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 19 Apr 91 p 2

[CTK report: "New Right"]

[Text] The Federal Executive Committee of the Republican Party misinformed the public when it announced through CTK on 16 April that the "New Right-Wing" [Nova Pravica] association of citizens operates illegally. Engineer Ivan Rybar, chairman of the New Right-Wing Preparatory Committee, states that the "New Right-Wing" association of citizens was established in harmony with Law No. 83 of 27 March 1990. In accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the above law, no permit from state authorities is required for the association of citizens. He notes, at the same time, that no session of the Federal Executive Committee of the Republican Party on this matter was held and that its standpoint was communicated willfully by its illegally elected chairman, charges against whom were filed with the Municipal District Prosecutor in Bratislava-1 on 12 April 1991 because of suspicion of fraud and abuse of power.

'Provisional' Securities Market To Start in May

AU2304160391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 18 Apr 91 p 2

["mst"-signed report: "A Rudimentary Market in Securities"]

[Text] A "Contract on Cooperation Toward Establishing a Provisional Market in Securities" was signed in the Czechoslovak State Bank in Prague yesterday. The contract, which has been joined by eight commercial banks, is also open to other banks and savings banks. The signing of the contract marks the start of the period of intensive technical preparations for the functioning of a substitute market in securities in the Czechoslovak State Bank. This market will serve as a substitute for the stock exchange until it is established.

Participants in the market will be banks and savings banks, which will mediate trade for their clients from the ranks of organizations and the population. Trading will take place once every two weeks on the basis of assembled buying and selling offers, which will also determine a single market rate. The preparatory period, in the course of which issuers must, among other things, present prospectuses providing information on their credit worthiness, etc., should not be too long. Actual trading should start in May.

Dienstbier Assesses Outcome of U.S. Visit

LD2004103691 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Peter Holman report on his interview with CSFR Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier at Prague's Ruzyne Airport on 19 April—passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Minister Dienstbier first briefly assessed the results of his trip. He said that the Americans are very interested in everything that happens in our country. He spoke to U.S. politicians not only about mutual cooperation, but also about the problems of European security.

The Americans offered help with the conversion of the armament industry and promised that they would do their utmost toward abolishing or at least limiting the import quota for our mainly textile goods.

According to Minister Dienstbier, the U.S. politicians are aware that the security of the countries of Eastern Europe is important for the security of the entire continent. They are aware that success in carrying out reforms in at least one country will be a great encouragement for all the others, including the democratic forces in the USSR.

In this connection, I asked Minister Dienstbier how people in the United States see the present situation in Czechoslovakia.

[Dienstbier] "I think that they are so well informed about it that almost every time the first question they ask is about the fate of the Czechoslovak Federation. They all stressed that they are interested in one Czechoslovakia, in one successful Czechoslovak federation, because its breakup would actually be very dangerous and would be a destabilizing element to the entire area."

[Holman] "At your meeting with President Bush you spoke about—or to phrase it better—President Bush expressed a wish to meet again with President Vaclav Havel. Have you spoken in greater detail on when it should take place?"

[Dienstbier] "It is expected that President Havel will come for a state visit perhaps in September or October, and on that occasion a declaration on Czechoslovak-U.S. relations would be signed."

Journalists then asked for details about the mechanism of the U.S. help to convert the Slovak armament industry.

[Dienstbier] "We will be more hopeful if we are able to present efficient and purposeful projects. More than one of the Slovak arms-producing firms has worked out such a project, and I have passed it over to Mr. Atwood and to the State Department, and they will discuss it in earnest."

In answer to a question, Minister Dienstbier disproved the popular view that the production of weapons in Czechoslovakia was profitable.

[Dienstbier] "The production of weapons has been taking a loss for almost 10 years; it is not this year's news. Enterprises could only assume that they were not taking a loss because they were paid from the state budget. In the meantime, enormous claims abroad have been made on the growth: Syria owes us almost a billion dollars, and Iraq owes 700 million dollars. It is true these claims are not only for weapons but also for various civilian projects."

In conclusion, Jiri Dienstbier said that his U.S. counterpart James Baker promised him that in the next talks in the area of the Middle East, he will do his utmost to get these claims paid.

Bulgaria's Zhelev, Goncz Hold News Conference

LD1804145291 Budapest MTI in English 1342 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—Winding up his two-day official visit to Hungary, President of the Republic of Bulgaria Zhelyu Zhelev jointly held an international press briefing with his Hungarian counterpart Arpad Goncz.

In the introduction, the two presidents informed journalists that their talks had focussed on the possibilities for renewing the ties between their two countries, both of which are in the process of creating a democratic state based on the rule of law.

They stressed that the traditionally good ties, that have been established between their two states over the past decades, must be further developed in the new political climate.

The basic principles of the new bilateral relationship are to be outlined in a new general agreement, the guidelines of which are included in the political statement signed by the two presidents during their current meeting.

After the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact, Bulgaria will have to preserve her security by concluding bilateral agreements, Zhelev said, answering a question.

The first such agreements are to be made with her neighbouring countries. Bilateral security agreements will be signed with Romania and the Soviet Union in the near future. This will be followed by agreements with all the former Warsaw Pact member states, after which Bulgaria will then sign security agreements with the Western European states.

Speaking about regional ties, President Goncz stated: In establishing closer economic and political co-operation, both countries are motivated by their geopolitical locations. In the framework of the Pentagonale and the Hungarian-Polish-Czechoslovakian co-operation, Hungary has established close ties with its natural partners. At the same time, Bulgaria is a participant of the two regional co-operational organizations within the Balkans. The point is, President Goncz said, that these regional organizations are not directed against anyone and do not exclude anyone. They should stay like that in future as well, Goncz stressed.

Accompanying President Zhelev to Hungary had been Bulgarian Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov and Minister of Foreign Trade Atanas Paparizov, who both signed agreements with their Hungarian counterparts.

Vulkov signed an agreement on renewing the visa accord between the two countries with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, whereas Paparizov concluded an agreement on bilateral trade for the next five years with Hungarian Minister of International Economic Relations Bela Kadar.

Paparizov and Kadar also signed a protocol on Bulgaria's obligation to settle her debt of nearly 76 million roubles to Hungary through rouble-accounting goods deliveries, the extension of preferential tourism opportunites and through the granting of investment opportunities to Hungary, by October 31. Outstanding Bulgarian debts remaining after November 1, however, are to be converted to US dollars. Paparizov and Kadar are also planning to sign an agreement on the scrapping of double taxation.

USSR Confirms Past Presence of Nuclear Arms

LD2404165291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Moscow Ministry of Defense has confirmed that, within the framework of Warsaw Pact activities, Soviet nuclear weapons were stored in Hungary earlier, although only in small quantities.

Because a new Hungarian military leadership was appointed last summer, and by this time there were no longer any Soviet nuclear weapons in our country, Moscow did not consider it expedient to inform the Hungarian military leadership about the matter, the spokesman added.

Romanian Parliamentary Delegation Continues Visit

Goncz Meets Parliamentary Leader

LD2404174791 Budapest MTI in English 1450 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, met Corneliu Manescu, chairman of the Romanian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, and his entourage in parliament building on Wednesday.

"I am convinced that the two countries should naturally be friends and come to an agreement whatever happens. I was criticized for my statement that Romania's road towards Europe went through Hungary. However, the opposite is also true: Hungary's road towards Europe goes through Romania," Goncz said. The president expressed the conviction that the nationality issue was only one aspect of co-operation between the two countries. A poll conducted in Romanian society would reveal that the advocates of peaceful Romanian-Hungarian co-existence form a decisive majority, Goncz said.

Corneliu Manescu confirmed Arpad Goncz's invitation to Romania by President Ion Iliescu. The Hungarian president emphasized that he thought it natural for a summit to take place but that it should be preceded by a policy of small but successful steps.

The Hungarian politician emphasized that Hungary had no interest in attacking Romania and hindering its economic progress, and was not intent on using the

nationality issue for home policy purposes. Gonez said he was optimistic about the future of Hungaro-Romanian relations, and confident that the two peoples would realize their interests, a sine qua non condition of lasting co-operation.

In his reply, Corneliu Manescu emphasized that the two sides should not only exchange views on their "destination of co- existence, and the necessity of normal bilateral relations, it is equally important for the two peoples to draw nearer, and become more familiar" with one another.

Hopes for Improved Relations Discussed

LD2404215291 Budapest MTI in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24 (MTI)—The Romanian delegation which arrived in Hungary on Tuesday under the leadership of Corneliu Manescu, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, continued its official talks on Wednesday.

In the morning, the delegation met Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky. After the talks, Jeszenszky told MTI that if the intentions the Romanian delegation expressed during the talks find a widespread reaction in Romania, there is a serious chance of making an advance and deepening relations, at least on the inter-parliamentary level. The negotiating parties stressed that although the history of the past decades cannot be undone, there is now a chance for the two countries' relations to move away from the deadlock position. Concerning the current debate on the Romanian constitution, the Romanian delegation assured the Hungarian foreign minister that the constitution would guarantee comprehensive rights and equality for all.

Foreign Affairs Committees Meet

LD2404224591 Budapest MTI in English 2002 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24 (MTI)—The delegation headed by Corneliu Manescu, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Romanian Parliament, held a discussion today with members of the Hungarian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chairman Gyula Horn proposed setting up a mechanism of consultations on the political situation, bilateral relations and the minority issue. He also called for the interrupted dialogue of professionals to be resumed, and for a co-operation accord to be worked out between the two countries.

Another agreement proposed by the Hungarian side would provide for the settlement of minority problems in accordance with the international norms. Further Hungarian proposals concerned the setting up of an ad hoc committee to support joint economic ventures and the solution of border-zone problems, as well as the foundation of a mixed committee dealing with the celebration of historic anniversaries, the reception of TV programmes, the free distribution of press products and the opening of consulates general in both countries.

In his reply, Corneliu Manescu pointed out that the fact that the members of the delegation were MPs outside of the executive power raised certain questions of competence. With regard to the consulates general, he said in his view this was a question up to the government to decide, and, besides, there was no relevant Romanian legislation at the moment. At the same time, he supported the idea of working out the two agreements, and proposed that two members each of the two committees draw up the drafts which could then be finalised at a committee meeting in Bucharest.

Compensation for 1949 Nationalization Approved

LD2404202391 Budapest MTI in English 1422 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—After several months of debate, the Hungarian parliament today approved the compensation law which will offer people whose property was nationalized in 1949 partial compensation.

Under the new law, compensation will be paid via a compensation certificate, a transferable sight security entitling the holder to buy privatized state property.

Compensation certificates can be used to buy privatized shops, businesses and farmland, as well as state-owned or local-government-owned flats.

An interest-bearing security, the compensation certificate will carry a rate of interest which is 75 per cent of the prevailing central bank base rate (22 per cent at the moment) for three years from issue.

One million people—about 10 per cent of the country's population—are reckoned to be affected by this compensation scheme. Some studies suggest that the value of state and cooperative property that will pass into private hands via the compensation certificates may amount to 100 billion forints.

Direct descendents and spouses of the original owners will be entitled by law to compensation certificates.

A particular feature of the law is that farmland is the only property that can return to the original owner in its natural form. This does not apply in the case of other property.

In the case of farmland, compensation will be assessed on the basis of the value of the land in gold crowns, as registered at the time of nationalization, as this expresses the productive value of the land. The compensation certificates entitle the bearer to buy back land from cooperatives.

The compensation law pronounces that repurchased farmland has to be utilized for farming purposes and cannot be sold for five years.

Compensation through these certificates is expected to affect 40 to 50 per cent of the country's farmland of 10 million hectares.

Up to 200,000 forints worth of nationalized property will be fully compensated for. Above that sum, compensation will be in a regressive degree. The upper limit of compensation is 5 million forints.

Antall Meets National, Ethnic Minority Delegates

LD2404200991 Budapest MTI in English 1843 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 24 (MTI)—Prime Minister Jozsef Antall met leaders from Hungary's national and ethnic minority organizations in parliament on Wednesday [24 April].

Following the meeting, government spokesman Balazs Laszlo went through a press release issued by the prime minister on behalf of his government. The substance of this was that the government considers it top priority to solve the problems facing Hungary's national and ethnic minorities, in compliance with the European norms and principles.

In keeping with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Republic of Hungary has no intention of rectifying state frontiers by force, but aims to make them crossable with the observance of the political country borders, the document says.

Rejecting assimilation of any kind, Hungary has an interest in the strengthening of the minorities, collective-mindedness, in the safeguarding of their sense of identity and in their free contact with the parent nations. The government is convinced that the position of the minorities can be settled by guaranteeing, ethnic group, rights, along with the observance of universal human rights.

The document stresses the importance of solving the parliamentary representation of the minorities through an amendment to the election law, and temporarily by introducing the ombudsman system. It is urgent that a bill be drafted on national and ethnic minorities in co-operation with their organizations, with attention being paid to compensating for the disadvantages hidden in the minority status and ensuring the extra rights, indispensable to a genuine equality of chances, runs the document.

The spokesman told journalists that at the meeting Jozsef Antall expressed his hope that the minority round-table conference would shortly reach a consensus as to the provisions of the minority bill.

Janos Wolfart, president of the National and Ethnic Minority office, confirmed that the minority round-table was working on a separate bill to be submitted to the government. The minorities are of the opinion that the draft could still be put to parliament before the summer recess.

Minister Bod Denies Resignation Rumor

LD2404104291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Peter Akos Bod has denied that he is leaving the head of the Industry and Commerce portfolio. Today's issue [of Vienna] KURIER reports that the minister will represent our country in Brussels at the EEC. Peter Akos Bod has stated that there is no substance of truth in this latest rumor.

Former Ambassador Stresses Support for Government

LD2404104891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0600 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] [Former Ambassador] Peter Zwack has said in a statement to a U.S. television network that his dispute was only with Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, and that he continues to support the government. The former ambassador [to the United States] said that a tiny group of extremists is behind the attacks and threats directed against him in Budapest. Peter Zwack is at present in the U.S. capital, but he stresses that he wishes to return to Hungary and will help U.S. investments. He also held out the prospect that he may return to the political arena because he still wants to fight for democracy.

New Newspaper UJ MAGYARORSZAG Formed

AU2404092291 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 20 Apr 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The UJ MAGYARORSZAG Is Launched"]

[Text] We would like to be a newspaper that is moderate but can set the standard after a while—Gabor Albert, chief editor of the new daily UJ MAGYARORSZAG [New Hungary] stressed at his news conference on Friday 19 April. The first issue of the newspaper, which has 12 pages on weekdays and 16 pages on weekends, will be available in the streets as of 26 April.

It will not be a government newspaper, but it will embrace the same concepts that the government represents—the chief editor's words revealed. The chief editor admitted that he had no previous experience in journalism, but obviously those who appointed him also knew about this, and his "unblemished" past must also have been in his favor. The chief editor quoted his own words, spoken at the renowned 1986 general meeting of the Writers' Association, to outline the program of the newspaper: "We are not looking for scapegoats but are trying to build ourselves up." The new publication would like to keep clear of "small-time party political battles," but maintains its right to form its own opinion.

Bielecki Visits Opole, Criticizes Chemical Plant

LD2404224691 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki has been the guest of the Opole region. He spoke to representatives of the German minority, placed flowers at the foot of the monument to the insurgent deed at St. Anne's Mount, visited the nitrogen chemical works in Kedzierzyn-Kozle, and met farmers.

The final act of Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki's stay in the Opole region was a press conference. The prime minister emphasized the importance of his morning meeting with representatives of the German minority. Let us add that one of its leaders read aloud a statement about the indignation resulting from the events taking place on the German-Polish border, and not only those takeing place since the removal of the visa requirement. In the latter part of his remarks, the prime minister said that reformists' measures in industry and agriculture planned and proposed by the government still continue to fail to find a response in individual enterprises, and that is in all of its [word indistinct], from the large state ones, through to the state and also private farms, to the small artisan workshops.

The prime minister devoted much time during his remarks to the situation in the nitrogen works in Kedzierzyn-Kozle, where he was a guest at midday. It is almost unimaginable, the prime minister said, that hardly one-third of the employees participate in production, while the rest busy themselves with working for the enterprise's hotel, ice-skating rink, and swimming pool, and that a large part of production is taken up by the production of soda water, where first and foremost chemical goods should be produced, above all artificial fertilizers.

In reply to a question on administrative changes in Poland, Prime Minister Bielecki recalled that possible reform in this dimension is being and is going to be widely discussed. He added that he does not imagine that anything would be imposed. It is true, he replied, we want regionalization, as that is how Europe is governed, but above all we are going to listen to local communities. [passage omitted]

Visits German Minority

AU2504105391 Frankurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 25 Apr 91 p 7

["Dt." report: "Prime Minister Bielecki Visits Gogolin, Upper Silesia"]

[Text] Opole, 24 April—Polish Prime Minister Bielecki has called on the German minority in Poland to participate actively and loyally in establishing self-administration and introducing the market economy in Poland. At a meeting with the Central Council of Germans in the town hall of the village of Gogolin south of Opole, Bielecki emphatically appealed to the minority not to let themselves be guided by distrust and bitterness. Addressing the 20 members of the Central Council's board of governors, he said: "I wish that you would say: I am a Pole of German origin." For him, there is no doubt that Poland's path to Europe leads via Germany. It is no coincidence that he chose Bonn as the destination of his first trip abroad as prime minister. Bielecki pointed out that the German-Polish treaty is on the verge of being concluded. It will be "a good treaty." The best state agreements, however, do not guarantee beneficial cooperation. This must be done by the people on site. Every individual must participate in building Europe. The prime minister thus responded to the demand made by Heinrich Kroll for recognition of dual citizenship and for guarantees for the minority in Polish election law. Kroll, who is a member of the Central Council of Germans, complained that in public a distorted image of the minority and their relations with the expellees' associations in Germany is being painted. The expellees are also inclined toward agreement with Poland. "We do not expect the old times to come back to Silesia," Kroll said, "but we want guarantees for our rights." The guideline must be the principles on minorities set down at the Copenhagen CSCE conference.

Gerhard Bartodsziej, who, as mayor of Strzelce Opolskie, is also the deputy chairman in the voivodship council, pointed out that the minority is represented in 30 of 63 communities of the voivodship. In 26 communities they even represent the majority of the council. "For us, loyalty is the supreme principle," Bartodziej said. The minority will not threaten the state order in Poland. They know that their chance lies in participating in a state that feels strong enough to grant rights to the minorities. After the meeting in Gogolin, which took place at Bielecki's initiative, the prime minister laid a wreath at the monument of the Polish rebels of 1921 on Gora Swietej Anny [St. Ann's] mountain. During his historical reminiscences, the local mayor, Hubert Kurzal, who is also a member of the German minority, told Bielecki that none of the powers that ruled Silesia ever loved this country particularly, "and the same goes for the communists." However, its inhabitants love it all the more. It is not the monument of the rebels but the Franciscan monastery on Gora Swietej Anny that attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims every year. That is the point of crystallization of these ties with the homeland. Kurzal briefed Bielecki about the fact that the "friendship meeting" on Gora Swietej Anny, which is planned for Whitsun, will not be an expellees' rally. Folklore ensembles from various countries have been invited. The village wants to hold such a festival every year to better use the amphitheater below the rebels' monument, which provides room for 100,000 people.

Poll Assesses Bielecki Government

LD2404110291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0500 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] RZECZPOSPOLITA has published the results of a poll assessing Jan Krzysztof Bielecki's government.

After 100 days in office, Prime Minister Bielecki's cabinet has pleasantly surprised not quite 57 percent of the Poles. Thirty-four percent regard its activities as being in line with expectations from the beginning of the year. Forty-seven percent of the citizens admit the government's activities have fallen below expectations. The methods adopted by Bielecki's government for creating a middle class most suit the intelligentsia and least suit the farmers. Twenty-nine percent of those polled believe the government ought to change its agricultural policy.

Bujak Splits From ROAD, Forms Movement

AU2404132791 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 22 Apr 91 p 2

[Pawel Lawinski report: "The Democratic-Social Movement—Balcerowicz Plan Reason Behind Bujak Split From Union"]

[Text] Last Saturday [20 April], Zbigniew Bujak, founder of Citizens Movement-Democratic Action [ROAD]—along with Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, ROAD's other driving force—became the head of a new social democratic party called the Democratic-Social Movement. This effectively signals his split from both ROAD and Tadeusz Mazowiecki's Democratic Union.

"This is a definite parting of the ways, although we cannot rule out the possibility of a future coalition with the Union. We are counting on the support of workers and farmers, whom we want to protect, as well as young people and women, who should have a greater say in politics. We have no worries about the future, and we are certain that we will be successful," said Bujak at the conclusion of the Warsaw meeting.

According to Bujak, the main reason for the split is the disagreement over the Balcerowicz plan. The Union wants it continued, but the new party opposes it. The new party will now prepare its own political program. Bujak said that there was an urgent need to create a system whereby people could get access to finance enabling them to purchase shares. Lack of finance was proving a serious barrier, and that is why people were beginning to lose faith in privatization.

The new party wants farmers to participate to a greater extent in the national economy, and it has indicated that it wants to develop agriculture in spheres that will bring economic success to the farming community. Readily available housing for all those in need is another priority goal of the new party.

"We are against the anti-abortion law. We believe the matter should be left for every woman to decide according to her own conscience. This law will only push abortion underground," said Bujak.

The new party is already negotiating with other groupings that it considers to be natural coalition partners; namely, the Polish Socialist Party led by Jan Jozef Lipski and Bugaj's "Solidarity"- based parliamentary grouping. The Center Accord is considered to be the new party's arch political rival. According to party activists, Party X could also pose a great threat. If allied with the Social Democratic Party of the Polish Republic [SDRP], the two parties could gain a majority in Parliament. "Our program must appeal to potential Tyminski and Cimoszewicz voters," stated Bujak.

The party has set up a coordinating council and elected a five-member board. "The average age of board members is a little above 30 years," said Wojciech Borowik, one of the founding members of the new party.

Asked whether he feared the new party was going to be labeled yet another leftist group that has risen from the ashes of the former Communist Party, Bujak said the following: "Up until now, the SDRP and the Polish Social Democratic Union have had a monopoly of left-wing political programs. We cannot allow the post-communist left to monopolize this important area of our political ground. To implement social democratic programs in Poland, we have to get the support of Western social democratic parties. The SDRP has failed to get the support of the left in the West, whereas we have a good chance of doing so."

Bujak maintains that the Center Accord's frequent use of the de- communization slogan is merely a political gimmick. "If we want a state that is subject to the rule of law, we must not introduce the principle of collective responsibility. We must take each case on an individual basis and proceed through the courts in every such case," added Bujak.

Replying to the question whether party members will have their past investigated to see whether they once belonged to the Communist Party, Bujak stated: "We hope to recruit young members. Most of these people would not have been in the Communist Party. However, I also know of some very good professionals who were Communist Party members. One should not waste their talents, and we could do with their skills."

OPZZ To Continue Talks With Government

LD2404200591 Warsaw PAP in English 1903 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Wroclaw, April 24—Leader of the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) Alfred Miodowicz met here today with workers of the PAFAWAG factory to report on the organization's preparations for the May 6-7 economic forum organized by President Lech Walesa.

Miodowicz, responding to workers' remarks that recent numerous protests organized by OPZZ against the falling standard of living did not change a thing in their situation, said that the Alliance would continue, also in May, firm talks with government representatives.

Peasant Parties' Election Committee Meets

LD2404221991 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] In Warsaw the first meeting of the Peasant Movement National Election Committee has taken place. Five

representatives each from the Polish Peasant Party (PSL), PSL Solidarity, and NSZZ [Independent Self-Governing Trade Union] Private Farmers Solidarity have become members of it. The committee's task will be to submit the best candidates in the coming parliamentary election on the Peasant Unity List. An election staff and program commission have been appointed.

World Bank Approves Loan for Country

LD2404121491 Warsaw PAP in English 0828 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Washington, April 24—The board of the World Bank approved on Tuesday the loan of 120 million dollars for Poland, negotiated in February, to be used for the modernization of inter-city telephone communications.

Poland is also to receive 90 million dollars from the European investment bank in Luxembourg for financing modern digital inter-city exchanges.

'No Alternative' to Country's EC Membership

AU2404105391 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA (Economy and Law Supplement) in Polish 22 Apr 91 p I

[Danuta Walewska article: "There Is No Alternative"]

[Text] The signals that have reached Poland prior to the next round of talks on Poland's association with the EEC are positive. The "12" have decided on major concessions toward Poland and two other countries striving for the same status—Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

After the talks last Monday, 15 April, the EEC foreign ministers concluded that the possibility of full membership, the target of the current process of association, could be included in agreements concluded with Poland. As we know, until now the "12" have defended themselves against the inclusion of such a clause. They also decided that none of the three countries would have to take any kind of "test" in the form of introducing a free-trade zone. Our three countries will be given more time to decide which tariffs to abolish over the next 10 years.

The "12" have also said they would consider concessions concerning agricultural policy, provided we relax our regulations. However, customs duties on Polish textiles are to be abolished completely over the next 10 years, and restrictions on exports of Polish steel will be lifted over the next five years, provided we stop subsidizing the steel industry.

So the forthcoming round of talks might provide a breakthrough, because the biggest obstacles to our associate status have already been removed.

In the intervals between successive rounds of talks, Poland has made it clear that although an agreement on association with the EEC is important to us, this must be a good agreement. After all, by signing it we are forsaking part of our sovereignty, even if we are gaining major advantages in return. Therefore these advantages have to be clearly defined. Poland has already said it is prepared to sign this agreement after June this year, but it must be a genuinely satisfactory agreement.

Andrzej Olechowski, secretary of state in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Cooperation, has said all this in Brussels, but he also complained about the unequal treatment of Poland implied by the proposals made by the "12." Later he said he had the impression that his complaint had worked, and the result of the EEC foreign ministers meeting shows that he is right. One quarter of the agreement has been worked out so far, and the talks scheduled for 22 and 23 April should work out other portions.

Nevertheless, one must not harbor any illusions. The negotiators are faced with many difficult decisions, e.g. tourist traffic. We know that the Community has already paid a high price for a reduction in its unemployment. Once the Community has concluded an agreement on associate member status with the three countries, especially with Poland, with its population of 40 million, it will once again be threatened by a tide of cheap labor, similar to the "Turkish wave."

On our part, not only will we have to adapt our legal, fiscal, statistical, and quality control systems—to mention just a few—but also find our own specialization, our own little niche. It sounds like a paradox, but we can convert our weakness into strength. We can take advantage of our underinvested agriculture and our farmers' shortage of synthetic fertilizers to produce highly prized health food with the use of natural resources. There are more possibilities like that.

We must also bear in mind the difficulties experienced by other countries that have decided to join the EEC. There is no universal rule. In each case, the process is a painful one. It can be long, as in the case of Greece and Turkey, or short, as in the case of the GDR. Nevertheless, the advantages of membership are obvious, and for us there is no alternative.

Right now, Polish documents in EEC files number 31 pages and contain 101 articles. There are bound to be more of them after the Brussels meeting.

Commentary Defends Debt Restructuring

AU2404110691 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 22 Apr 91 p 5

[Agnieszka Wroblewska commentary: "Pride and Money"]

[Text] The Paris Club decided to remit half of Poland's debts in the middle of March, so we have already had enough time to rejoice. Now the rate of repayment of the remainder of the debt has also been decided. After difficult talks, a favorable scenario for Poland has been selected. We have been treated on an exceptional basis, and we know why. It is because the Polish Government's economic program has earned the confidence and respect of politicians and financiers around the world.

Yet the recent citizens' committee conference once again criticized Polish "submissiveness" to the banks of the world. It quoted the poor economic results of recent months, especially the increasing recession, as alleged proof that we are following the wrong path. That is not true, for the recession is mainly the result of the collapse of trade with the Soviet Union and East Germany. If we were to heed the advice of economists, who would like to put more money into circulation and to stop paying foreign debts altogether, the results would be very quick indeed. Hyperinflation and a weak zloty would be just the side effects. What is worse, the confidence and respect of world banks would end as well. We would remain in our little corner: proud but isolated and bare.

Poland-USSR Society Head on Economic Relations

AU2404111691 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 20-21 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Andrzej Zawislak, industry minister and chairman of the Poland-Soviet Union Society, by Kazimierz Groblewski; place and date not given: "An Association for Doing Business"]

[Excerpts] [Groblewski] When you took over the chairmanship of the Poland-Soviet Union Society, the outgoing chairman of the Society for Polish-Soviet Friendship [TPPR], Henry Bednarski, who had headed the organization for many years, said that the entry of new people into the ranks of the society's leadership represents an enormous success for the outgoing Main Board. I tend to agree with him. It makes it possible for the organization to effect a smooth adjustment to a new set of circumstances. Why did you decide to run for the post of chairman?

[Zawislak] When I became industry minister, I became acutely conscious of something which I had previously felt in a theoretical way; namely, the enormous importance for Poland of placing economic relations with the Soviet Union, our eastern neighbor, on a proper footing. That was the most important aspect of my decision. The other considerations are derived from it.

I do not want to start weighing the past, but it can be said that until now the TPPR was a cultural fact and a political fact. Its cultural activities should be assessed very favorably. As far as political activity is concerned, there is little that the society can be proud of. We should, however, be fair. The TPPR is not the organization that should be singled out for castigation.

On the whole, I want the Poland-Soviet Union Society to be an economic factor. It is to be an organization that will facilitate contacts for our own businessmen, contacts leading to contracts. We will be working for a vigorous Polish business presence from the Bug to Vladivostok. [passage omitted]

[Groblewski] It would appear that our society is favorably disposed to individual republics belonging to the Soviet Union, but not to the Soviet Union as a whole. The organization's very name, however, suggests that it is geared toward cooperation with the Soviet Union. What sort of contacts are there going to be with the republics?

[Zawislak] There are no hard and fast rules. At the moment, the Soviet Union is going through very dramatic times. This might give rise to all manner of organizational and legal arrangements. Nevertheless, it is our neighbor, regardless of the organizational forms under which it operates. Experience will tell us how we should reach agreements on things between us. In any event, we will not be packing any explosive political emotions into our activities.

[Groblewski] So, the form that the society has does not preclude cooperation with individual Soviet republics?

[Zawislak] At the moment, the issue is so open that I even think that different sections might be formed within the society. The society might, for example, become an association of sections. Whatever form the organization might take, they will all be derived from a basic goal: creating a basis for doing business through getting to know each other and through mutual relations so both sides can achieve economic success.

[Groblewski] How do you intend to deal with that large group of former TPPR activists that will not be able to find a place for themselves in the organization now that it has been overhauled?

[Zawislak] It is difficult for people to shed habits. I think, however, that I possess qualities that make me particularly capable of dealing with this matter. On the one had, I am very patient; and on the other hand, I can be very brutal when necessary.

[Groblewski] Will it worry you if a lot of former members of the TPPR leave the organization?

[Zawislak] It will not. I would say that quality is supplanting quantity. [passage omitted]

[Groblewski] How do you intend to settle the question of the society's assets?

[Zawislak] It has been settled. The society does not rely on subsidies. I will be quite honest about it. I would not have agreed to run for the post of chairman if the society had been financed out of the state budget. For the time being, the society can stand on its own two legs. I would not like the need for financial independence to dominate the society's activities to a very great extent, and I would not want us to become a macroeconomic entity benefiting the entire economy, but a microeconomic entity; that is, a society for pursuing business. That is what I would want.

Iliescu Views USSR Treaty as 'Positive Event'

AU2404192891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1848 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Report on news conference by President Ion Iliescu with unidentified reporters at Cotroceni Palace; date not given]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 24/4/1991—President Iliescu renewed the appeal he had repeatedly addressed to the Romanian press to use its power to create an attitude of national solidarity for the country's destinies, more particularly at this moment which he assessed as "complex and complicated."

Speaking at a press conference held at the Cotroceni Palace about the oncoming government reshuffle, the president showed that the willingness manifested by both the presidency and the ruling party was not met with a clear-cut, sincere adhesion by the opposition parties. He mentioned in the context the talks conducted in that respect as early as the period of the provisional power, as well as the proposals advanced over the past months, the attempt to create a consulting body at the level of the presidency with the participation of the opposition parties. Likewise, he assessed the condition set by the opposition that a government of national unity should be led by a premier who should not be a member of the party that won the elections as compromised from the very beginning. The government reshuffle is not an option of the president. It should reflect the opposition parties' wish to commit themselves, he said.

The president assessed as unrealistic the opposition parties' proposals regarding the calling of early elections, arguing that the country was undergoing a very complicated and complex process of promoting the economic reform, a period during which the Parliament was committed to creating a legislation apt to lay the foundations of democracy in Romania, and an election campaign would do nothing but delay law-making.

"University Square" has been a complex process, stated the president in another sequence of ideas. "I said there were also 'golans' ['hooligans'] when I made that statement. With them the 'University Square' phenomenon also came to an end.

"No doubt, there were also people of good faith there. No doubt, there were also erratic persons who wanted to speculate that phenomenon for electoral purposes."

Enlarging on Romania's openness in foreign relations, the president enumerated the treaties to be soon concluded with Balkan countries, the visits of officials from other countries as well as the visit he is to pay to Latin American countries this July. He assessed the treaty recently concluded with the USSR as "a positive event that reflects the changes wrought in European interstate relations."

Civic Alliance Issues Open Letter to Mitterrand

AU2404100791 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 17 Apr 91 p 8

["Open Letter to Mr. Francois Mitterrand, President of France" issued by the Civic Alliance; place and date not given]

[Text] Mr. President, welcome to Romania!

The Civic Alliance is an organization that represents the civic society and was established a few months ago in response to the desperation that engulfed a large area of the population because our history has taken the wrong turn in the past months. Within the contradictory multitude of aspects of our political life, our Alliance's goal is to struggle to change the mentality that was created in the years of totalitarianism and to make sure that the moral course of democracy—which looks like a constantly threatened ray of hope—is respected.

Mr. President, we view you as one of the representatives of European democracy. Romania has always considered France an exquisite model in establishing a democratic system, as early as the last century, when Romanian political leaders of that time looked to Paris and gained inspiration there to establish our modern institutions. Recently, in the last years of the communist dictatorship, the Romanians very much valued your gesture in refusing to meet with the Ceausescus. Today, after the 1989 December events, you are visiting our country. We understand that the aim of your visit is to stimulate our country's advance toward democracy. Unfortunately, the current authorities and public institutions are not moving in this direction. Any manifestation of the opposition is rejected, either through brute force—as in June 1990—or through simplistic cliches that reveal a communist way of thinking. The Parliament, virtually a one-color one, passes antipopular laws that are meant to clear the way—from a legal point of view—for the reestablishment of a totalitarian regime. The economic reform we all desire is being arranged before the edifice of a true democracy could serve to guarantee it. The results should be up to expectations; however, the old structures and corruption inherited from the old regime undermine the reform, so with the current rapid pace of history there is a risk that this reform will be stillborn. If we want to avoid witnessing the former nomenklatura being transformed into the future bourgeoisie, and if we do not want to become helpless witnesses to the establishment of a red capitalism in a country that has barely emerged from the depression of so-called "real socialism," then we all have the duty to be on guard. The suffering caused by so many years of intoxication and apathy cannot pass without our having learned one lesson—namely, that all voices that seek to contribute to the political and moral restoration of the country should be heard.

We will cite an example to illustrate that this requirement is far from being realized. The television, this institution invested with almost magical powers in

December 1989, has been removed from the control of the public and is being used by the current regime as its spokesman. The leadership of the television has become an instrument exclusively in the hands of the current regime. The programs of the opposition have been canceled and replaced by cheap entertainment programs. Everything that could express the wide scope of our civic society has been eliminated. The demonstrations of the opposition are presented in a comic way, exclusively from the point of view of the authorities. Between lies, politics, and entertainment, the national education—so necessary to consolidate a democratic mentality—has been eliminated. We hope you will agree with us that modern democracy cannot be practiced while the leadership has full control of the television and the opposition is forced to express its opinion in the streets. For more than a year, through the unofficial press and through mass rallies (one is taking place in front of the television building) people have called for the resignation of the current compromised leadership as well as for it to be replaced with a managerial committee that should include independent personalities who could ensure the necessary objectiveness. The current leadership refuses to listen to such legitimate requests, and we are worried that the law on audio-visual means—currently being drafted—and the planned measures to increase the commercial and nonpolitical nature of the two existing television programs (in which the French companies would play a major role) will only result in cosmetic changes.

We believe, therefore, that you, in your capacity as herald of European democracy, will intervene and will explain to the current leadership that without an independent television, something that is being systematically denied to the civic society, democracy in Romania will remain an illusion. If you succeed in convincing our authorities to agree at least to this small step toward democracy, your visit will have the significance of providing real assistance to Romanian society and will not—as many judge in haste—be an act that legitimates the current leadership.

State Secretary Neagu Holds Talks in Netherlands

AU2304193191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1730 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The Hague ROMPRES 23/04/1991—During the visit he is paying to The Hague at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Mr. Romulus Neagu, secretary of state with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, member of government, had on April 22 a meeting with the president of the second chamber of the Parliament, Wim Deetman.

During the talks, the Romanian dignitary made an extensive presentation of the process of reforms in Romania, of the steps taken by the government and Parliament towards building a state of law.

Possibilities were also surveyed to develop the cooperation between the two countries' Parliaments, as well as ways in which the Dutch Parliament could support the renewing processes taking place in Romania.

The president of the Parliament accepted the invitation to visit Romania at the head of a Dutch parliamentary delegation.

The same day Mr. Romulus Neagu had talks with executives of the Algemene Bank Nederland concerning investments in Romania and the setting up of joint ventures.

Likewise, the Romanian secretary of state had talks with the director of "Clingendael" Institute for International Relations about possibilities of cooperation between the institute and Romanian relevant institutions and the sending of Romanian diplomatists to the institute for training terms.

Mr. Romulus Neagu also attended a roundtable organised by "Clingendael" Institute for International Relations of The Hague where he delivered a lecture on "A New European Security System a Romanian Viewpoint."

Meets Foreign Minister, Others Officials

AU2404172391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1438 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 24/4/1991—Foreign Secretary of State Romulus Neagu, member of the Romanian Government, had, during his visit to the Netherlands, talks with the Dutch minister of foreign affairs Hans Van den Broek.

The Dutch side was informed of the latest developments in the Romanian society. Mr. Van den Broek stated his country was ready to open its door for Romania and support its integration in the European system of political and economic institutions.

On the same day, Mr. Romulus Neagu held consultations with Messrs. P. Dankert, secretary of state, and A.P. van Walsum, director general for political affairs in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to whom he made a detailed presentation of the renewing processes after the December, 1989 revolution, pointing out the difficulties encountered by the Romanian society and the government in translating into facts the goals of the state of law, the revigoration of the Romanian economy in its transition to a market economy. Mr. Neagu stressed the importance of foreign aid, particularly through foreign investment in Romania and by treating Romania on an equal footing with the other countries, in international economic and financial institutions.

The Romanian secretary of state also met with F.A. Engering, secretary of state for foreign trade in the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, with whom he examined the present economic relations and the chances to develop them. Both sides came to the conclusion that

Romania needs a more active support from the Netherlands in the form of capital investments in agriculture, energy, transport and management, before anything else.

Defense Minister Allegedly Contacted Terrorists

AU2404141691 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 16 Apr p 4

[Sorin Rosca Stanescu article: "Are There Terrorists Among Us?"]

[Excerpts] In September 1990 we published Mr. Gheorghe Bozgan's statements about the activity of certain terrorist groups in our country before and after the 1989 December revolution. We expressed our doubts about the genuineness of certain facts which we were not able—not even by risking our lives—to verify. In short, those statements referred to the Mathaba [spelling as published] organization, which has its headquarters in Tripoli and is coordinated by al-Qadhdhafi. According to Mr. Bozganu's statements, the Romanian Intelligence Service [SRI] and the Army Intelligence Directorate [DIA] had knowledge of situation. At the SRI headquarters, Mr. Bozganu was even shown a photograph of one of the leading members of the Mathaba. This person informed Mr. Bozganu that National Defense Minister Mr. Victor Stanculescu was twice in Libya in January 1990, where he also visited the Mathaba headquarters. Likewise, at the beginning of last year, Gelu Voican Voiculescu also visited some Arab countries. While expressing our reservations on the matter, we called on institutions and people involved and requested an answer. We mentioned the fact that the clarification of this matter might shed light upon the greatly controversial issue of terrorists who acted in December 1989. Moreover, the clarification of this matter could protect us from subsequent events that might affect the stability of our country. We have not received an answer either from Mr. Virgil Magureanu [head of the SRI] who is highly concerned (through the duties incumbent on him) with the struggle against terrorist networks that are operating in Romania, or by Mr. Victor Stanculescu—who has been regarded with real suspicion on this matter—or Mr. Gelu Voican Voiculescu.

Here we are now, less reserved than in the past as far as Mr. Gheorghe Bozganu's statements are concerned. Let us explain. Following his statements to the DIA, Mr. Bozganu was advised—to protect his life—to take a few days of sick leave. He was sent to the Central Military Hospital because he was told that: "Things are simple there: You have a headache and you can take 10 days sick leave." Mr. Bozganu was naive enough to accept this peace of advice, which is when the ordeal started. "The attempts of the Counterespionage Directorate of the National Defense Ministry not to discuss certain things made me even more determined to make them known. As a result, a number of actions were taken by them which resulted in my being declared mentally ill and I was admitted as an out-patient at the Central Military Hospital." [passage omitted]

On 15 September 1990, this so-called mentally ill person was called to directly report—to no more and no less than—Defense Minister Stanculescu. "He told me that he knew I was not mentally ill and he would transfer me to the Bucharest Garrison, but I should stop making statements, otherwise we might reach...diplomatic conflicts." [passage omitted]

Who knows who is obstinately trying to declare Mr. Gheorghe Bozganu a mentally sick person? Is it possible that what he reveals to the press might disturb somebody? Why has the minister of national defense not yet answered the question whether or not he had made trips to Libya in January 1990 and whether, while there, he contacted the headquarters of the Mathaba? Why does Gelu Voican Voiculescu keep silent? Why has the SRI not discovered a single terrorist yet? Are there or are there no terrorists among us?

Weekly Cabinet Meeting Examines Economic Issues

AU2404193191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1804 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 24/4/1991 - Romania's Government gathered Wednesday afternoon under the chairmanship of Premier Roman in its weekly session.

During the session, the government examined and approved bills to be forwarded to Romania's Parliament, which refer to the running and exploitation of state monopolies, the organization and functioning of administrative legal services, to notary work and bankruptcy procedures.

The government also analysed and approved draft resolutions regarding the organization of research and design institutes, and of enterprises producing, industrializing and marketing horticultural products from the Danube delta, too, as share-holding companies, and the setting up of the "Registrul Naval Roman" (Romanian Naval Register) public corporation.

Romania's government also decided to modify and complete the provisions of the Decision No. 1295/1990 for stamp taxes on the actions and requests forwarded to courts, on notary acts and services as well as the discount of imports for growing coal production and lower gold consumption at manufacturing professional contractors.

Decisions were also endorsed on the approval of economic, scientific, technological and commercial cooperation agreement between the Governments of Romania and Malaysia as well as of the accord between the Governments of Romania and Italy on the promotion and mutual guaranteeing of investments.

As in the oncoming touristic season various Romanian and foreign tourists seem to show the same trends of taking out large amounts of consumer goods and fuel for automobiles from the country, the government decided to extend the restrictive measures taken in this respect

up to December 31, 1991. Likewise, it decided that the measure allowing the tourists resident abroad to take out of the country any quantity and sort of commodities bought in hard currency should no longer be applicable since the respective goods are resold in other countries at higher prices than the purchasing ones.

The government also decided to authorize the functioning of an office of the charitable department of the Orthodox Bishopric of the U.S.A. and Canada in Romania's territory. The office will operate in Bucharest and will give assistance on food, medicines, implements and seeds, equipment for hospitals, nursing houses and orphanages, in medical and educative-religious books.

Certain amendments to the government's decision No. 211/1991 were also approved with regard to trade surpluses, which guarantee state and private economic agents efficient work and the maintenance of trade surplus ceilings with salient foodstuffs.

It was decided that trade surpluses should be declared to the fiscal bodies and listed so as buyers may know them.

The practice of bigger surpluses than the ones declared is an act of profiteering and sanctioned as such.

The government assumed the bill regarding the presidential staff's and executive power bodies' payment with a view to tabling it at the parliament.

The executive approved the decision regulating the pay of the personnel in budgetary units covering education, fundamental scientific research, medicine, social assistance, culture, sports as well as other institutions financed from the national public budget or other extrabudgetary means.

TU Leader Comments on Meeting With Iliescu

AU2404193291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1752 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 24/4/1991—"The president said he would try to back the trade unions," Victor Ciorbea, leader of the National Confederation of the Romanian Free Trade Unions, told the press after President Ion Iliescu had received them [today, 24 April].

Mr. Ciorbea pointed out he had presented the president with proposals for measures to go along necessarily with price liberalisation, so real steps towards market economy could be taken.

He also told the press that trade union leaders had formulated proposals regarding prevention of unemployment and asked that salaries in budgeted institutions be paid according to the understandings reached in the joint trade union federations relevant ministries commissions. These salaries the only ones, in his opinion, capable to provide for a decent living, be it on a low level.

At the same time trade union leaders speeded up the trade unions law, already voted by the lower chamber of the Parliament, a law they consider as the only guarantee for trade union leaders.

Jovic Urges 'Democratic Solution' to Crisis

LD2504093591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0821 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade April 25 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav State Presidency President Borisav Jovic warned in an address in the federal parliament today that Yugoslavia will sink further into the depths of the most terrible internal clashes and even bloodshed if a democratic solution to the crisis is not found.

Jovic called on the delegates of the federal parliament, on institutions and all Yugoslavs to confront the dangers which the country is going through and contribute to a peaceful and democratic settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

President Jovic presented a report on the current political-security situation in the country at a joint session of both chambers of the federal parliament.

Jovic conveyed to the delegates of the federal parliament the proposals of the Yugoslav State Presidency on the guidelines for the settlement of the Yugoslav constitutional crisis.

The starting point of the Yugoslav State Presidency is that a peaceful and democratic settlement of the Yugoslav crisis has no worthy alternative. For this reason the Presidency proposes, as Jovic set out, that the talks on the future Yugoslav community intensify and in which all legitimate Yugoslav subjects must take part.

The talks of the presidents of the Yugoslav republics, according to the Yugoslav State Presidency, have so far not yielded the expected results.

A referendum, as Jovic put it, should set out the course for the settlement of the crisis in the country but agreement should be reached on the questions which citizens will be asked to respond to.

"The Yugoslav peoples who see their future outside the Yugoslav community must have the right to realize this interest," Jovic said, adding that the federal parliament for this reason should propose a constitutional-legal basis and procedure for the possibility of leaving the Yugoslav community.

Until an agreement on the political future of the country is reached, according to the presidency, it is necessary to ensure the consistent implementation of federal regulations, the normal functioning of the economy and put an end to the media war.

President Jovic had previously spoken extensively about the political-security situation in the country.

According to Jovic, the political-security situation in the country has worsened since last October, at which time he had also submitted a report on the same topic to the federal parliament.

Gross violations of the country's constitutionality and legality is seriously affecting the political-security situation in Yugoslavia, according to Jovic. A quasi-constitutional or totally unconstitutional state is present in many parts of the country in which formally, two parallel and mutually opposed legal systems are valid—the federal and republican. Jovic said that republican constitutions, declarations on sovereignty, resolutions on "dissociation" and other acts are being adopted, which suspend and substitute federal regulations.

"The legitimacy of the country's highest organs are openly being questioned," Jovic said and added that the competencies of the organs are being unilaterally taken and transferred to the federal units, republican "sovereignty" is being proclaimed although there is no legal basis for this.

Jovic warned that in some parts of the country the constitutional role of the Yugoslav Army is being questioned, which at no time overstepped its competencies, according to the Yugoslav State Presidency's assessment.

On the other hand, according to Jovic, single-nationality and one-party armed formations are being created, equipped with illegally imported weapons, including, of late, volunteer and elite units.

In certain parts of the country the Yugoslav Army is being labeled as an occupying army, Jovic set out, saying that soldiers being are called on to desert and army officers are being exposed to maltreatment and blackmail.

"There is no example of such treatment of one's own army in a single legal state in the world," Jovic underscored.

The Yugoslav internal crisis, according to Jovic, is being treated as the most sensitive spot in Europe and has reached quite a high degree of internationalization. Jovic said that the internal situation has become the heaviest burden in terms of the realization of Yugoslav interests in international relations.

According to Jovic, Yugoslavia's international credibility is being undermined by the intensive activity of certain Yugoslav republics which are discrediting Yugoslavia, in order to obtain foreign support for their separatist goals, as Jovic put it.

Jovic warned that in the process of settling the Yugoslav crisis, the [word indistinct] warnings of relevant international factors and their urging for the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia cannot be ignored.

Presidency Agrees on Text of Jovic Report

LD2404164191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1008 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr (TANJUG)—At its session today, reported to have been presided over by President

Borisav Jovic, the SFRY Presidency agreed on the text of a report on the current political-security situation in the country and measures for overcoming the constitutional crisis to be submitted by the president of the SFRY Presidency at the session tomorrow of the SFRY Assembly.

Mines Laid on Knin Rail Lines; Traffic Disrupted

LD2404124191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1132 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 24 April (TANJUG)—Rail freight traffic was almost back to normal when mines were laid last night on the Lika line between the Stara Straza and Padjane railway stations and on the line in the direction of Split and between Kosovo and Sineric.

Rail maintenance workers are repairing the track. According to Damjan Beric, traffic section manager of the Knin railway junction, the moment the line is put right—and this is expected to happen today—traffic will start moving again in the direction of Lika and Split.

In the meantime, the traffic—that is, freight transport—has been moving in the direction of Zadar and along the Una line without any difficulty whatsoever.

Traffic Resumes

LD2404215191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1555 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 24 Apr (TANJUG)—Today at about 1600 traffic resumed on the Knin-Gracac and Knin-Split railroads. According to the Knin traffic office's information these services and those toward Zadar are now operational by night, while the Una river railroad is in use only by day.

Traffic was suspended on the Split and Gracac railroads following last night's mining of the tracks. Railroad maintenance workers repaired them relatively easy and quickly.

Assembly Begins Debate on Markovic Program

LD2404125791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0852 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 24 (TANJUG)—A debate on the report submitted by Yugoslav Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic in the Assembly of Yugoslavia last week opened in the federal parliament's Federal Chamber today.

The federal government has proposed changes in the economic programme for 1991, and has devalued the national currency, the dinar, by 44.4 percent.

Apart from the new package of economic measures, the debate in the Federal Chamber will cover a federal government's global programme, known as "eleven plus three," in which the government defines the minimum requirements for the functioning of the federation in the transitional period, that is, until a definitive resolution of the Yugoslav crisis.

At the beginning of its work today, the Federal Chamber forced a group which will draw up draft conclusions on the basis of today's debate.

Federal Prosecutor on 1990 'Political Crimes'

LD2404183191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0022 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr (TANJUG)—The number of political crimes in Yugoslavia last year was the smallest in the postwar period, with 253 persons reported against, 111 indicted, and 66 sentenced for so-called political offenses. These figures are cited in a report on the work of the public prosecutor's offices, which the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office has submitted to the Yugoslav Federal Assembly.

The majority of persons were indicted for the criminal acts of fomenting national, racial, and religious hatred. As a result, so-called verbal delicts make up the largest number of offences.

In recent years the number of political crimes had varied from the top figure of 466 to the lowest of 283 cases per year, and was negligible in comparison with the overall number of crimes. Last year out of the total number of convictions only 0.07 percent were for political crimes, the report states.

The Federal Public Prosecutor's office stresses, however, that evidence and generally recognized facts point to a serious discrepancy between registered and actual number of crimes.

The fact that out of the 111 indicted person 69 were charged with fomenting national or religious hatred, divisions, and intolerance indicates that this type of offense convincingly predominates in the overall pattern of registered political crimes. Sixteen people were indicted for conspiring to carry out hostile activities, 11 for counterrevolutionary threats against the social system (Article 114 of the SFRY Penal Code), three for damaging the reputation of the SFRY (Article 157 of the SFRY Penal Code), and two for hostile propaganda (Article 133 of the SFRY Penal Code) [numbers as received].

The majority of the indicted persons were Albanians (58), followed by Serbs (24), Muslims (20), Croats (five), and Montenegrins (four). As for the social structure of the group, 58 were workers, 13 students, 10 intellectuals, one pensioner, five peasant farmers, and 24 from other professions.

Last year detention longer than three days was ordered for 34 persons, with 26 of them in Kosovo.

Figures for individual republics indicate that in Bosnia-Hercegovia out of nine persons reported against, one was

indicted on charges of fomenting national or religious hatred; in Montenegro out of 21 reported persons eight were indicted: six on charges of damaging the reputation of the SFRY and two of fomenting either national or religious hatred; in Croatia eight people were indicated out of 47 reported cases: six on charges of fomenting national or religious hatred, two of damaging the reputation of the SFRY; in Macedonia out of six persons reported against, one was charged with fomenting national or religious hatred; in Slovenia two persons were reported against, but investigation proceedings were abandoned.

In Serbia out of 118 persons reported, 93 were indicted: 60 of charges of fomenting national or religious hatred, 11 under Article 114 of the SFRY Penal Code, 10 on charges of conspiring to carry out hostile activities, eight of damaging the reputation of the SFRY, two under Article 133 of the SFRY Penal Code, and two for other offenses under the same article. Out of the total figure for Serbia, 50 persons were reported against in Serbia proper, with 27 indicted; none in Vojvodina; while the rest were in Kosovo.

The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office warns that due to the increasing insularity of the republics, the increasingly restrictive application of the federal penal law in the republics, and growing restrictions on the work of the federal prosecutor, the enforcement of federal laws is subject to agreements between individual public prosecutor's offices.

In reference to the circumstances in which the public prosecutor's offices operated last year, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office notes that the SFRY Presidency has pardoned a large number of people and that last May an amnesty law came into force pardoning all persons who up to 19 May had been charged with or prosecuted for so-called verbal delict (Article 133) or damaging the reputation of the SFRY (Article 157).

The SFRY Penal Code has also been changed. Most amendments were introduced in the group of so-called political criminal acts (Chapter 15). As a result, public prosecutors stopped prosecution of 45 persons, while in 12 cases charges were altered.

These developments reiterate the public prosecutor's offices commitment to act in line with the existing regulations, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office stresses, and goes on to state that "on the whole, all the processed cases indicate that the public prosecutor's offices acted correctly and in line with the law."

Kadijevic Hospitalized With 'Acute' Infection

LD2304161291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1520 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 23 (TANJUG)—National Defense Secretary of Yugoslvia Eljko Kadijevic was admitted to the military medical academy of Belgrade today.

According to a statement issued by the information service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense, General Kadijevic has been hospitalized for an 'acute viral infection.'

As announced, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Yugoslavia Lieutenant General Blagoje Adzic will replace General Kadijevic until he returns to his duties.

Criminal Charges To Be Brought Against Draskovic

LD2404185491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1717 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr (TANJUG)—In the First Municipal Court in Belgrade, a decision was adopted today to begin criminal proceedings against Serbian Renaissance Movement Chairman Vuk Draskovic.

According to a report from the Information Secretariat of the Serbian Renaissance Movement, Vuk Draskovic is charged, in a detailed accusation, with committing two criminal acts on 8 and 9 March: first, calling for resistance against legal state bodies, and second, participating in a gathering that carried out acts of violence in Belgrade on 9 March.

Vuk Draskovic and his defense lawyers have the right to appeal against this decision to the council of the same court within three days.

Serbian Committee Rejects Krajina Accession

AU2404203391 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 17 Apr 91 p 1

[TANJUG report: "'Krajina' Accession to Serbia Rejected"]

[Text] Belgrade—On Tuesday [16 April], the Legislative Committee of the Assembly of Serbia failed to endorse the proposed law on citizenship of the Republic of Serbia for Serbs born or resident outside Serbia but within Yugoslav borders, which had been submitted by deputy Milan Paroski. The committee thinks this way of settling citizenship would not be in conformity with international conventions and domestic legislature, and not even citizens would have the possibility of deciding on their own citizenship. Moreover, in this case, Serbs in other republics could be seen as non-citizens, so they could be put "in an even more difficult position." The committee assesses that this issue should be settled by changing the law on citizenship, which is linked to the talks on Yugoslavia's future.

The committee did not endorse the proposed decisions on the accession of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina, Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem to the Republic of Serbia, which had been proposed by deputies Milan Paroski and Dragoslav Petrovic. Both the committee and the government are of the opinion that this decision would jeopardize the stands of the

Declaration on the Peaceful Resolution of the Yugoslav Crisis of the Assembly of Serbia. Apart from that, the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis; therefore, the position of the Serbian people in Croatia, is being discussed in the SFRY Presidency and in the talks between the republican presidents. Their outcome will determine all future decisions of the Assembly of Serbia, with the clear stand that "in every variant, Serbia is firmly oriented toward a solution that ensures that the Serbian people live together in one state."

Markovic Warns Serbia's Zelenovic on Tax Moves

LD2304210691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2007 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 23 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic today informed Serbian Premier Dragutin Zelenovic that all republics except Serbia have approved the government's invitation to suspend or postpone the application of laws and regulations parceling the Yugoslav single market.

It now depends on Serbia whether Yugoslavia will restore a single market and economic ties among the republics, Markovic said in reply to a recent letter from Zelenovic.

The (Serbian Government's) position that the federal government's new measures should be both reformist and anti-inflationary is fully acceptable, said Markovic, but the two governments hold different views as to how this should be achieved.

He recalled that the federal government had defined measures for liberalizing imports and protecting domestic production in line with regulations set by GATT, which Yugoslavia must observe as member of this organization.

Markovic warned Zelenovic that Serbia's announced additional taxes on some goods were in contravention of federal regulations. With this move, Serbia will only contribute to inflation and put its citizens into an unequal position in relation to the others in the country, he explained.

The government of Serbia proposed to the republican parliament to approve additional taxes on fuel, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Commenting on Zelenovic's charge that the federal government's monetary policy is inconsistent, Markovic said that a consistent monetary policy is impossible if each republic should issue money outside the monetary policy framework adopted by the federal parliament, as Serbia has done.

The federal prime minister dismissed Zelenovic's criticism over an absence of subsidies for agriculture and explained that it is not possible to subsidize the sector when the republics are not paying their dues to the federation.

Experts Say Spegelj's Voice Falsified on Video

AU2304164191 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 9 Mar 91 p 1

[HINA report: "Spegelj's Voice a Falsification"]

[Text] Zagreb—On the basis of an expert analysis, it has ben established that the voice of Croatian Defense Minister Martin Spegelj as featured in the well-known television program on Belgrade Television at the end of February, had been edited in various ways. This, therefore, suggests that we are witnessing a deliberate falsification. The research was carried out by a group of experts headed by professor Branko Somek at the Institute for Electrical Acoustics of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Zagreb, using the scientific method that is also used to identify voices in criminal investigations. The group noted significant as well as minor discrepancies in the volume, pitch, and tone of the voice. Careful examination of all the video frames shown on the television has revealed several characteristics of disputable sound material. The high and low frequencies were technically muffled, the frequency range of the voice was narrowed, voice dynamics were unnaturally equalized and reduced. In a certain part of the material the experts noted that the speech was significantly masked with interference, which greatly affected the audibility and the identity of the voice. There was also considerable discrepancy between voice curves [valni oblici] in the original Martin Spegelj speech and the one featured in the television program. All the facts suggest that the voice of the defense minister of the Republic of Croatia in the program was deliberately processed in order to discredit him, that is to say that the Belgrade Television program produced by Zastava film is a falsification.

SPO, SDS Deny Asking Tudjman for Help

AU2404194491 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 14 Apr 91 p 3

[Branka Mitrovic report: "Denial by the 'Tracherous Parties'"]

[Excerpt] Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman again succeeded in creating controversy in Serbia. At the news conference held after the republican presidents' talks in Slovenia, he stated that some people from the Democratic Party and the Serbian Renewal Movement [SPO] telephoned him again on the night of 9 March. As a result, those two parties have again been proclaimed traitors by certain circles in Serbia, and it has already been said that only Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic could be pleased with such a conduct.

"We have rebuffed Mr. Tudjman's statements twice already; therefore, the matter is ridiculous and pointless and we will no longer bother with it in the future," [SPO Chairman] Vuk Draskovic stated in connection with this. "Mr. Tudjman said that a certain Jovanovic has telephoned him, and you all know that this is a very 'rare' surname among Serbs. Such practice of quoting the

anonymous telephone calls speaks best of Mr. Tudjman, and the Croatian democracy," said the SPO leader Vuk Draskovic, who had written a denial in his own style, although it has been signed by [party's] Vice President Dr. Jovan Marjanovic.

"They Are Asking SPO for Help"

It is stated in the denial, that is, a statement for the public, entitled "They Are Asking the SPO for Help," which Draskovic issued on Friday, that during the last three months certain people, who have introduced themselves as members of the closest Croat Democratic Alliance [HDZ] leadership and of the Croatian leadership, have telephoned the SPO president. These people asked the SPO to help them overthrow "President Tudjman and his Ustasha right-hand men." Besides that, on 10 April at about 2200, a certain Juric, who introduced himself as a close associate of Mr. Tudjman, telephoned SPO President Vuk Draskovic at his home, asking the SPO for help with Dalmatia's secession from Croatia.

The SPO presidium, and Party President Mr. Draskovic replied that they do not wish to meddle, at least not in such a way, into the internal affairs of the Republic of Croatia. [passage omitted]

Slovene Territorial Defense Forces Examined

AU2404094991 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Apr 91 p 11

[Stevan Sicarov article: "Is the Yugoslav People's Army Withdrawing from the Slovene State?"]

[Text] In the law on the national defense of Slovenia, adopted at the last session of the republican Assembly, the Territorial Defense Forces have in all its characteristics—from command to recruitment—the traits of a classic military formation.

Constitutional Amendments 96 and 97 and the constitutional laws for their implementation—which were adopted last year and on whose basis quite a large number of federal laws and certain legal provisions, acts, or regulations concerning national defense were suspended—transferred powers from federal bodies to republican ones. The republican Presidency took over command of the Territorial Defense while the National Defense Secretariat assumed all the tasks concerned with defense planning, formulating drafts, recruitment, and so on.

In the meantime, the document "Bases of the National Security of the Republic of Slovenia" was published in the magazine OBRAMBA, even though it had for a long time borne the stamp of "strictly confidential." The document only quickens the old debates about militarization and demilitarization that range from the extremes of Slovenia without arms and Slovenia's membership in NATO.

The conceptual confusion, however, is not diminished by facts about the transformation of the Territorial Defense [Forsces] into the Slovene Army. The adoption of the law on military service would only be "dotting the i's" in this concept because recruits from Slovenia would do their Army service of seven months' duration in Territorial Defense units. As is well known, Slovene recruits have not been sent to the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] since March.

Since Slovenia should become an independent state on 23 June, the sphere of defense is one of the most sensitive in the so-called transitional period. The government, or rather the Defense Secretariat, has prepared a draft according to which the JNA should withdraw from Slovenia within a period of three years, while it should withdraw from a third of the premises that it uses by 1 August. This demand was sent to federal bodies at the end of last year so the withdrawal could be agreed upon, but no one in the Federal Secretariat for National Defense and the JNA has spoken up about this. The media has been speculating that this was discussed at the meeting that Peterle and Dr. Drnovsek had with General Kadijevic and Admiral Brovet, but the Slovene Prime Minister sticks to the stand that the content of the talks should remain unknown to the media.

According to this draft on JNA financing for this year, its units would protect Slovenia's borders until the end of this year; the JNA should vacate one third of barracks in Slovenia by 1 August; the JNA would withdraw the rest of its units starting 1 January next year and leave equipment and weapons to Slovenia. The demand that one third of Army premises be vacated by the end of July rests on the premise that the law on Army service will be adopted and that the republican secretariat will, beginning as early as 1 July, be allotting recruits to the Territorial Defense Forces, and on the fact that the republic does not have sufficient and necessary capacity for soldiers' training.

In the last few weeks, particularly since the "Movement 91" tactical exercises of Territorial Defense units, which were not only not attended by members of the JNA but it was even said that Yugoslav Army units were "for now" not yet being treated as occupying units, the media have been carrying reports about other activities of the Defense Secretariat. That is to say, a list was compiled over more than half a year of all the property of the JNA.

Thus, it is now known, that in Ljubljana, for example, the JNA has 20 premises over an area of 87 hectares, and that seven barracks are planned to be moved from here. It is also known that in exchange the JNA demanded some other locations or buildings, as well as that the republican government calculates that it would take over JNA property without compensation. This includes a large fund of around 7,000 Army apartments, which the republic would sell instead of the federation.

Dissatisfaction with these processes is being expressed by the "peace-lovers" who, after the adoption of the law

on military service, will be able to do nothing but adopt a new constitution, as the only way of concretizing the demilitarization project. That is to say, the Slovene Army has already been "smuggled in" with alterations to the old one.

[The following passages appear boxed within the body of the item]

The Contingency Plan

Even though everything indicates that the exchange of one armed force with another is proceeding smoothly and without any great surprises—apart from the well-known incident when the military police took over the building of the Republican Territorial Defense Staff—Jansa's secretariat has prepared a draft plan in case a conflict breaks out and a state of emergency is introduced. According to these figures, the JNA could engage 20,000 soldiers, the number that it has in Slovenia, as well as 5,000 loyal reservists, while the Territorial Defense units could mobilize 45,000 people out of 73,000 territorials.

New Barracks Sprouting Up

Two small barracks are hurriedly being built in Slovenia to receive the first recruits: The barracks in the Ljubljana suburb of Ig will take 200 recruits and 50 officers, while 120 recruits are envisaged for the barracks in Pekra near Maribor. Both barracks would have to be ready by 1 May. Apart from that, recruits would be distributed among the existing Territorial Defense centers, where, according to the media, training is already being carried out. Thus, for example, the population of the until recently forbidden area of Kocevska Reka has been complaining that there have been many more uniformed trainees there since the buildings were taken over by the Territorial Defense than there were when the JNA controlled the area.

U.S. Ambassador Warns Slovenia on Secession

LD2504225591 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2200 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Warren Zimmerman, U.S. ambassador to Yugoslavia, was in Slovenia today. At the invitation of the Slovene Council for European Movement, he lectured in Cankarjev Dom in Ljubljana on the CSCE and on the new European security system. He also spoke of the U.S. stand on events in Yugoslavia.

In connection with the Slovene stands, he drew attention to the Helsinki 1975 agreement concerning when borders in Europe may be changed. He warned that Slovenia's secession from Yugoslavia would amount to a big change, not only for Slovenia but for Yugoslavia and the rest of Europe too. The U.S. ambassador was received by all top Slovene senior officials.

Montenegro's Kostic Comments on Nation's Future

LD2404183291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2045 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Statement by Dr. Branko Kostic immediately on being elected in the Montenegrin Assembly as a member of the SFRY Presidency; place and date not given]

[Text] Titograd, 23 April (TANJUG)—Truly, I would not have accepted this position if I did not believe in the continued existence of Yugoslavia as a single state. It has become obvious even to the passionate supporters of secession from Yugoslavia in certain republics and to those who virtually won the election on this slogan that secession is not all that simple and that the prospect of togetherness is the only true chance for a peaceful life together.

I anticipate that during the meetings between the republican presidents and as a result of the Federal Assembly discussion on the SFRY Presidency's assessments of the political and security situation and on Ante Markovic's government program, conditions will be created in which the talks on the future Yugoslavia will be continued in a constructive tone. Of course, this implies that all the supporters of new or big states in this area must give up these [secession] moves. This also implies, Kostic stressed, that members of Albanian nationality in Yugoslavia must finally understand and accept that Montenegro and Serbia and Yugoslavia are their states too. This means that they must abandon their dreams about a greater Albania, just as the dreams of setting up a Muslim state in this area must also be abandoned.

By the same token I believe that the leadership of Croatia and of the Croatian Democratic Community, the party which is in power now and whose electoral results we recognize, must ultimately accept the nation-status [drzavotvornost] of the Serbian people in the Croatian state and restore to it the status and the role in the Croatian Constitution to which it is entitled. That, in my view, Kostic believes, would imply the abandonment of any ideas of setting up autonomous areas in these territories, because the aspirations to form such areas are in fact the result of this nation's bad experience of what happened in the past and of their wish to establish new conditions to safeguard their continued existence.

Said 'Optimistic' About Future

LD2504115891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1019 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Titograd, April 25 (TANJUG)—The newly-elected member of the Yugoslav Presidency from the Republic of Montenegro, Branko Kostic, said on Thursday he was optimistic regarding the country's future.

Kostic stated to Titograd daily POBJEDA he was confident that, despite large differences in views, a "common

solution would be found to continue life together in Yugosalvia as a modern federation."

Kostic recalled the demands of the entire international community for Yugoslavia to remain as a single state.

"I believe that even those who rather persistently urged the idea on secession, would finally understand, and not only they, but also their people, who supported them, that leaving Yugoslavia was not as simple," Kostic emphasized.

Izetbegovic on Federal Discussions, Army

AU2404200291 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 17 Apr 91 p 4

[Interview with Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency President Alija Izetbegovic by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Adventurism Has No Chance"—first paragraph is VJESNIK introduction]

[Excerpts] Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency President Alija Izetbegovic has given an interview to HINA [Croatian news agency] on the current political situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the talks between the six republican presidents. [passage omitted]

[HINA] The slowness of the negotiations is disappointing many citizens. Do you believe in the possibility of a quick agreement?

[Izetbegovic] I am also disappointed by this process, which is going at a rate that is too slow for my taste. The reason is probably the particular complexity of the problem, as well as the inability of the people who are involved in the negotiations to leave their "trenches." They are unable to accommodate others, and this is the greatest problem in the negotiations. I have thought from the very beginning that compromise is the only thing that is expected of us. The alternative to compromise is general collapse, or a situation of disorder and hopelessness. This could even be a situation of long-lasting agony without dramatic moments and incidents. The continuing escalation of the crisis obviously shows that we have not yet reached the bottom, because we would probably have already begun an upturn. Nevertheless, the relatively great restraint shows that this is an arena for great historical experience where adventurism does not have much of a chance.

The Problem Is Serbo-Croatian

[HINA] On the basis of the news conferences, at which presidents Tudjman and Milosevic have spoken the most frequently, can it be concluded that such a situation prevails even during the talks among the six presidents?

[Izetbegovic] I do not interpret it in that way. This is simply the fact that the Serbian-Croatian conflict lies at the heart of the problems in Yugoslavia. The conflict is not between Bosnia and Slovenia, nor Macedonia and Croatia but actually between Serbia and Croatia, whose protagonists are at the focus of the attention of both journalists and the public.

[HINA] Where does this leave the other people?

[Izetbegovic] Well, probably in the position of some kind of observers. Sometimes more or less passive or active, sometimes participators, and sometimes only rooting from the sidelines.

[HINA] Do you think that the negotiators could reach an agreement that would be to the detriment of what you call the "observers"?

[Izetbegovic] I think not. Above all, I think they would find it difficult to agree on anything both in the positive and the negative sense, even if this agreement were to be to the detriment of other peoples. I know that talks of this type always unavoidably lead to a historical association: an agreement at the expense of Bosnia. I think that history is not being repeated, and that such an agreement is not possible today for many reasons.

[HINA] How would you comment on the intention of Radovan Karadzic, president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Serbian Democratic Party, to transfer the right to negotiate on behalf of the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina on to Slobodan Milosevic—that is to say, on another negotiating unit?

[Izetbegovic] This is primarily a sign that democracy is still an abstract noun for some people. Mr. Karadzic has not in the formal sense been elected representative of the Serbian people, and Milosevic is even less of one in the case of Bosnia-Hercegovina. I consider that this is not relevant, nor essential. That is to say, I consider that the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina are not prepared for the adventure that such an orientation implies. [passage omitted]

[HINA] How do you interpret the amassing of military force in the northern part of Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Izetbegovic] There have been large military garrisons in Banja Luka and Prijedor for some time, and the increase in the Army's state of readiness and the increased presence of military units are definitely connected with the proximity of Knin and the events that have taken place there.

There have been some assessments that events could follow in which the Army would be called upon to carry out a certain role. I can tell you frankly that if there were to be national unrest there or activities against the integrity of Bosnia, we would be the ones who would call on the Army to prevent chaos and anarchy. The Army is not desirable, but there would not be much pondering of the choice between the Army and Chetniks.

Army, Weapons....

[HINA] Do you have enough faith that the Army will act within strictly defined frameworks?

[Izetbegovic] You see, the half-year blockade in Knin has been very instructive for me. This is a blockade in which despite all legal and constitutional rights, the Croatian Government does not have a realistic chance of exercising power in this region. In the case of Bosnia-Hercegovina, I believe that the Army's presence could discourage some people who think that they would easily carry out secession.

[HINA] Can you say this even despite the fact that the Army did not announce what it was doing in Prijedor and that you had had no prior meetings whatsoever concerning this matter?

[Izetbegovic] Yes, the Army made no announcement in advance. It carried this out as routine exercises and maneuvers and not as some special actions; however, this practice will be repeated less and less often.

[HINA] How do you see the latest controversy over the transportation of weapons in Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Izetbegovic] The Army has stuck to the claim that the weapons belong to the Army, and as such we returned them to it. It is clear that there is much confusion in this regard. Obviously there could be certain abuses in this respect, not by the Army but by certain people who are hiding behind the Army.

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Against Replacing Markovic

LD2404230591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1337 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Sarajevo, April 24 (TANJUG)—President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic said today the republic would favour any personnel changes in the federal government.

"We do not have a better programme than that offered by the federal government, nor do we know a better man who could possibly replace Prime Minister Ante Markovic, Izetbegovic said at a news conference.

Izetbegovic's statements indicate that the deputies of the republic in the Yugoslav Assembly will support Markovic and his government.

He also said Bosnia-Herzegovina had objections to the federal government's programme, but that they were minor.

If anyone can offer a programme better than that of the current federal government, we shall consider it, Izetbegovic said.

If the federal government were to fall, we would find it very difficult to reach agreement in Yugoslavia on a new government and leading figures - this would only take us deeper into the crisis, and closer to a state of uncertainly and even anarchy, Izetbegovic said.

Prime Minister Markovic last night met in Sarajevo with Izetbegovic and Premier of Bosnia-Herzegovina Jure Pelivan.

New Vojvodina Member Elected to Presidency

AU2404194391 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 9 Apr 91 p 2

[Milovan Nedeljkov report: "Kostic and His Impulses"]

[Excerpt] Would you like to be one of the two candidates for a member of the SFRY Presidency? No? Come on, please, do us a favor. That it approximately how one could describe what was happening in the corridors of Vojvodina Assembly on 30 March.

"During the break we found a second candidate (for the member of the SFRY Presidency, author's remark) among the Vojvodina Presidency members," Mirko Sijan, president of the Commission for Elections and Appointments, explained.

The president of the commission and its members cannot be blamed for "searching" during the Assembly break for a man that would be prepared to enter the highest Yugoslav governing body. The deputies of Vojvodina Assembly simply ordered them to find another candidate within an hour's time!

It was said at the beginning that there were four candidates on the list (Oskar Kovac, Dragoljub Petrovic, Tomislav Vojvodic, and Jugoslav Kostic), but because of withdrawals and for some technical reasons only Jugoslav Kostic, president of the Vojvodina Presidency, remained at the end. As a result, the commission proposed that the election be postponed, but the deputies nevertheless demanded that another candidate be found quickly to meet the condition of having to have two or more candidates for the post.

This unenviable role of being the second candidate in "democratic elections" fell to Vojvodina Presidency member Sava Ivancevic, but even after all this, Kostic was elected the Vojvodina representative in the SFRY Presidency only in the second round of voting.

Deputy Borivoje Novakovic asked Kostic why he initially stated that he did not wish to be a [SFRY] Presidency candidate, but later agreed. Ljiljana Aleksijevic, deputy from Pancevo, was even clearer by saying to Kostic: "Mr. President, I do not trust you any more."

The explanation by the President of the Vojvodina Assembly, who is now a member of the SFRY Presidency, was very convincing: "What I have said publicly was stated in the heat of the moment." What will happen if Mr. Kostic does something in the heat of the moment in the SFRY Presidency? [passage omitted]